China
TOURISM
DECEMBER 1994
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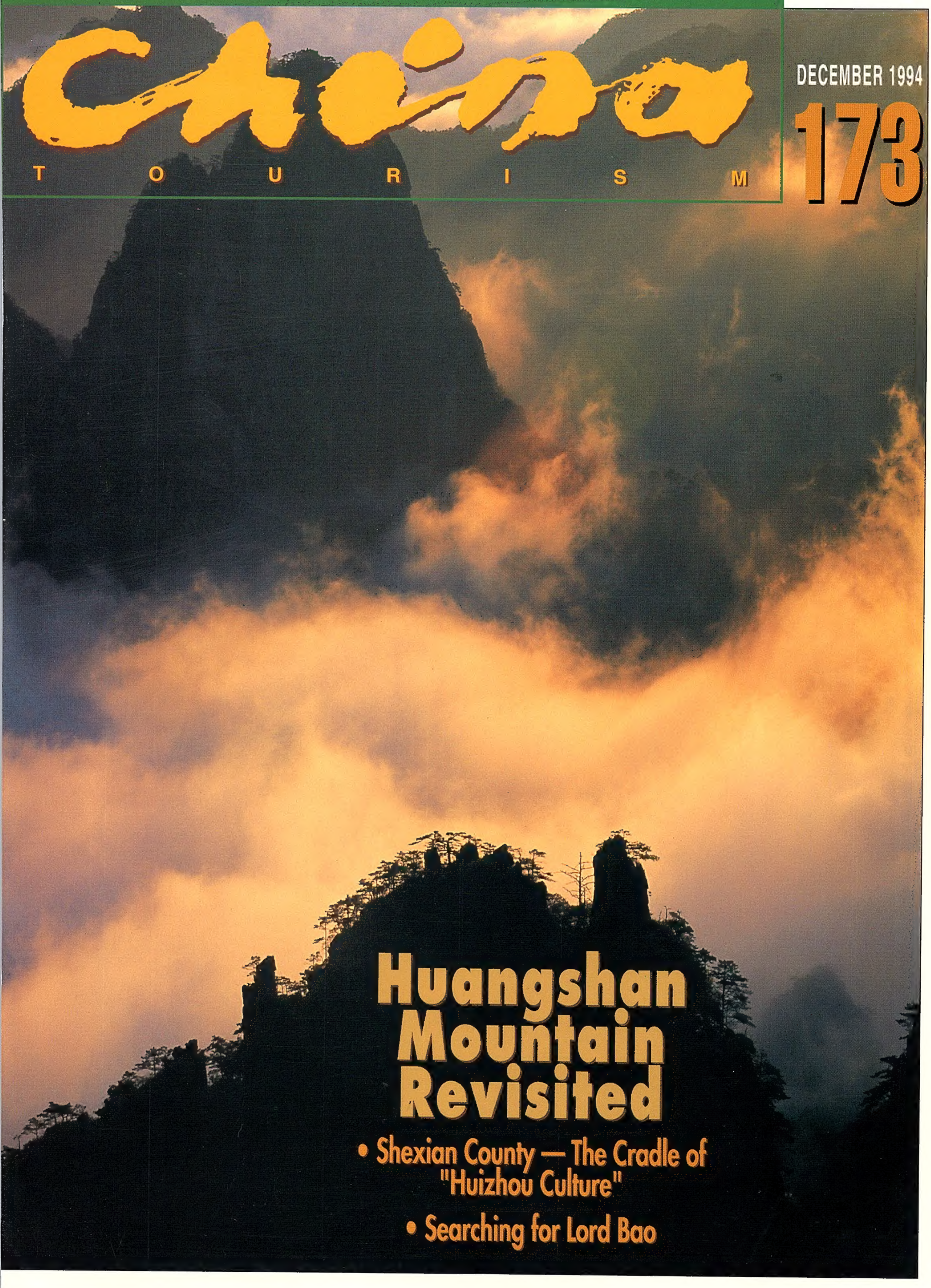

Huangshan Mountain Revisited

- Shexian County — The Cradle of "Huizhou Culture"
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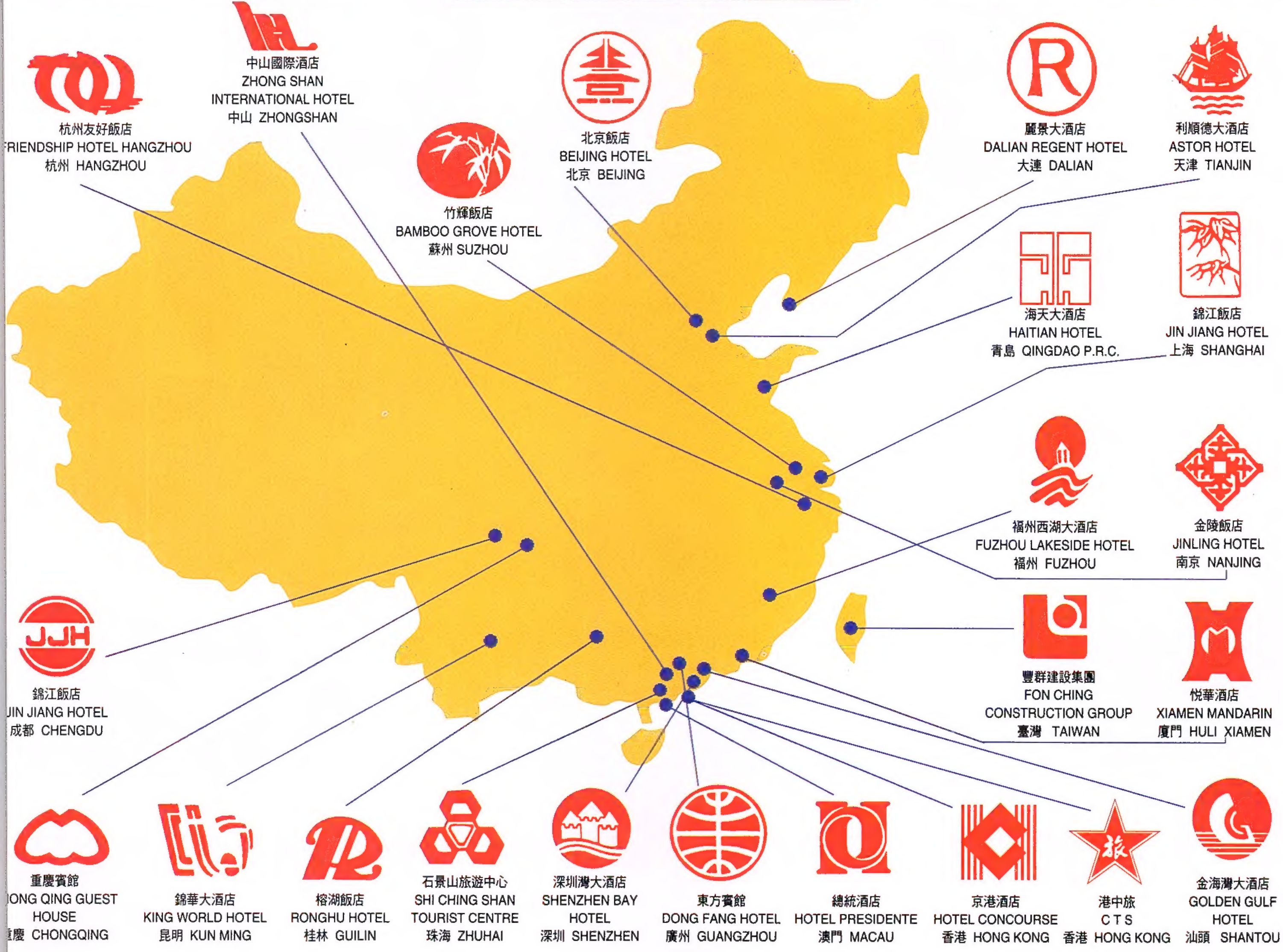

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—EDITORIAL—

The Attractions of Anhui

In this issue of China Tourism, we take a look at Anhui Province in the east of China. Bisected by the Yangtse River and relatively close to Shanghai, Anhui is comparatively little-known to travellers, except for the justly famed Huangshan Mountain. Huangshan Mountain has been one of the most famous and best-loved scenic spots in China for over 1,200 years, and has inspired generations of poets, painters and, in recent years, photographers.

For this issue of China Tourism, our photographers and writers journeyed to Huangshan Mountain in two different seasons: once in mid-autumn and once in early spring, to record the extraordinary landscapes there under different climatic conditions. The result is a fascinating and compelling look at one of China's most beautiful and idiosyncratic natural features.

Also in Anhui, we travel to Shexian County, famed throughout China for the quality of its scholars during the Ming and Qing dynasties, as well as its unique style of architecture and its production of some of the "four treasures of the study", specifically ink slabs and ink sticks.

One of the most important figures to come from Anhui Province was the imperial judge Lord Bao, considered to be the most honest and impartial judge China has ever seen. We look at the life of Lord Bao, and the places where he lived and worked, and examine exactly why he is such a legendary figure, still revered all over China today.

In addition to all this, we also take you to Dabu in Guangdong, the hometown of the Hakka people; we see the unveiling of a giant Buddha sculpture and examine the art of the snuff bottle. Diverse, beautiful, ancient and constantly fascinating, China and its people come to life through the pages of *China Tourism*.

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Front Cover: Beihai (North Sea) on Huangshan Mountain in Anhui *(by Xie Guanghui)*

HUANGSHAN SCENIC AREA

Huangshan Mountain Revisited 8

Article by Jing Diyun & Shu Yuancheng

We travel to southern Anhui Province to visit Huangshan Mountain, one of the most famous scenic spots in China. Home to bizarrely-shaped rocks, twisted pines, the sea of clouds and hot springs, we record the changing faces of the mountain in two different seasons of the year. With its peace and tranquility, this area provides a tonic for the spirit.

Shexian County — The Cradle of "Huizhou Culture"

Photos & Article by Xie Guanghui 3

Wealthy merchants in the Ming and Qing Dynasties used their fortunes to turn this county, just north of Huangshan Mountain, into a thriving intellectual and cultural centre. We travel there to look at the distinctive ancient architecture and th famous ink sticks and ink slabs which are produced there.

LEGENDS AND MYTHS

Searching for Lord Bao

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•Worshipping Lord Bao at the "Kaifeng Prefectural Office"

Photos & Article by Shi Bao Xiu

•Visiting Lord Bao's Hometown

Photos by Ling Jun & Wang Huaicheng
Article by Shu Yuancheng

Lord Bao, a native of Hefei, the capital of Anhui Province, who lived in the middle period of the Northern Song Dynasty, is still revered today throughout China for his honesty and uprightness. We track down the places where he lived and worked, and examine the legends of this extraordinary man.

ANCIENT CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION

A Visit to Dabu — Hometown of the Hakka

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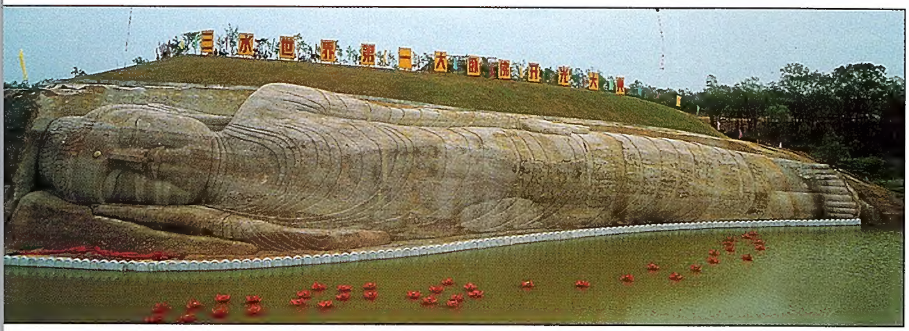
Photos by Du Younong
Article by An Ge & Hu Fang

n the remote mountains of eastern Guangdong Province lies Dabu County, he hometown to many of the Hakka people, now scattered around the world.

THE REALM OF RELIGION



The Unveiling of the Giant Reclining Buddha at Sanshui

Photos & Article by Chan Yat Nin

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he world's largest reclining Buddha statue was unveiled recently in the unlikely town of anshui just outside Guangzhou. The statue is 108 metres long and was carved out of a ocky hill. Its unveiling was an occasion of great importance in the Buddhist world.

China
TOURISM

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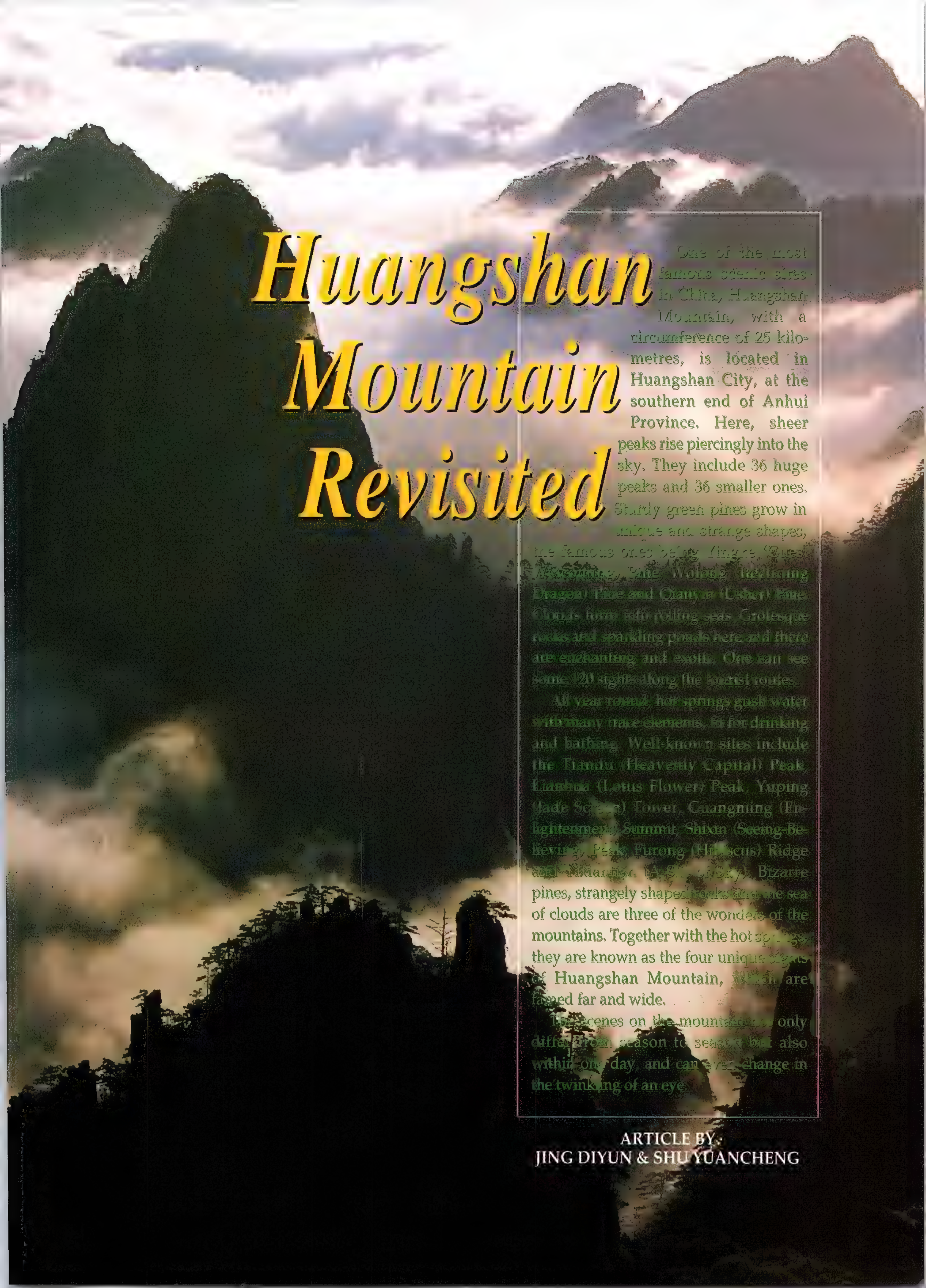
The vast sea of clouds at Huangshan Mountain is a unique sight (by Xie Guanghui).



Huangshan Mountain Revisited

One of the most famous scenic sites in China, Huangshan Mountain, with a circumference of 25 kilometres, is located in Huangshan City, at the southern end of Anhui Province. Here, sheer peaks rise piercingly into the sky. They include 36 huge peaks and 36 smaller ones. Sturdy green pines grow in unique and strange shapes, the famous ones being Yingke (Guest-Welcoming) Pine, Wolong (Reclining Dragon) Pine and Qianyin (Usher) Pine. Clouds form into rolling seas. Grotesque rocks and sparkling ponds here and there are enchanting and exotic. One can see some 120 sights along the tourist routes.

All year round, hot springs gush water with many trace elements, fit for drinking and bathing. Well-known sites include the Tiandu (Heavenly Capital) Peak, Lianhua (Lotus Flower) Peak, Yuping (Jade Screen) Tower, Guangming (Enlightenment) Summit, Shixin (Seeing-Believing) Peak, Furong (Hibiscus) Ridge and Yixiantian (A Slit of Sky). Bizarre pines, strangely shaped rocks and the sea of clouds are three of the wonders of the mountains. Together with the hot springs, they are known as the four unique sights of Huangshan Mountain, which are famed far and wide.

The scenes on the mountain not only differ from season to season but also within one day, and can even change in the twinkling of an eye.

ARTICLE BY:
JING DIYUN & SHU YUANCHENG

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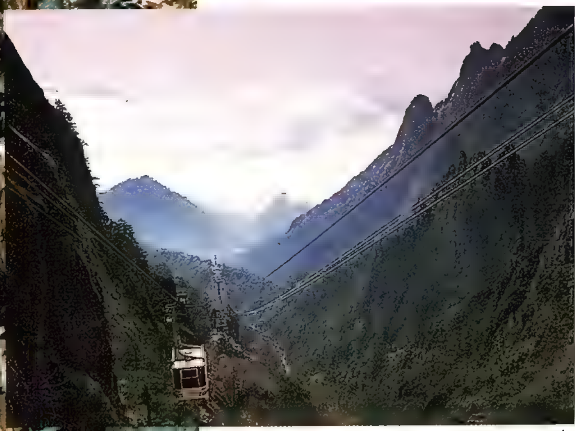

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1. The rocks and pines in all sorts o
strange and grotesque shapes o
Shixin Peak are a beautiful sigh
(by Ling Jun).

2. The cable car running between th
Yungu Temple and the White Goos
Ridge makes it easy for travellers t
ascend (by Chan Yat Nin).

3. The newly renovated Beihai Ho
tel (by Ling Jun)

4. Hot Springs at the foot o
Huangshan Mountain (by Xi
Guanghui)

温泉

In mid-October last year, I attended a photography symposium held in the Huangshan Mountain area.

Early one morning, more than 40 of us had a quick breakfast, were issued with a walking stick and a small package containing mineral water and lunch, and departed for Huangshan Mountain.

An hour and a half later, we came to the hot springs at the foot of Ziyun (Purple Cloud) Peak. We found ourselves looking at thick green trees, in whose shade were a good number of hoels and restaurants. A stream gurgled through the valley while the hot springs sent out warm vapours.

Nowadays, visitors to Huangshan Mountain do not go to the top from the south path on foot. Large ours, in particular, go to he Yungu (Cloud Valley) Temple on the east side of he mountain by bus and hen change to cable cars to each the summit. After having seen the views at the hree scenic areas called Beihai (North Sea), Xihai (West Sea) and Tianhai (Heavenly Sea), they come down the south side. Travelling this way proves to be quick and easy.

On the eight-kilometre oute from Wenquan (Hot prings) to the Cloud Valey Temple, our bus laboured up the mountain. On one side were green cypress and pine trees while on the other were large patches of bamboo down in the valley. Sparse patches of white cloud drifted in the sky, prompting the tour leader to say that we probably wouldn't be able to see the sea of clouds above the mountain. The remark made everybody disappointed, but we were more worried about what he weather would be like the next day, for all we ad were two days for this trip. It was 9:30 when we arrived at the Cloud Valley Temple.

The temple is located in the valley between Boyu (Monk's Bowl) Peak and Luohan (Arhat) Peak. The valley, 890 metres above sea level, is often visited by wind, rain and beautifully-shaped clouds, thus enjoying the reputation of being the "Valley of Clouds and Home of Fog". In the beautiful weather while we were there, there was only sunshine and a vast blue sky.

On the site where the Cloud Valley Temple should be, there is no longer any temple. Instead, a hotel has been built upon the ruins of the temple, where visitors going up the mountain may stop and rest. Eager to press on, we had no chance to see the huge boulders and aged cypress trees which are the legacy of the glaciers of the Quaternary Period. There was already a long queue at the cable car entrance. The younger ones among us did not want to waste time by waiting there, so we decided to go up on foot.

The wide and relatively flat path that leads to the North Sea is nearly eight kilometres long and rises 700 metres. An ill-fated attempt was made years ago to build a path for taking the emperors to the summit. Half way along the path is a place called Rusheng Pavilion from where the visitor can see a number of scenic sites including the Heavenly Capital Peak, the Immortal's Palm Peak and then a site named "Immortal Pointing the Way". From here a small side path takes one to the Pipeng (Tree Bark Hut) Scenic Area one kilometre away, where there is a good place to view the 36 small peaks. As we were hurrying to reach the North Sea, we had to miss seeing all these sites.

We finally arrived at the White Goose Ridge and entered the Beihai Scenic Area, after passing such places as the "Old Monk Picking Medicinal Herbs", "Heavenly Dog Looking at the Moon", and seeing the sites called "Twin Cats Catching Mice", "Five Immortals Rowing a Boat", and "Stone Drum". For

THE HOT SPRINGS SCENIC AREA

The Hot Springs Scenic Area is in the southern part of Huangshan Mountain with the hot springs at its centre. This is where the ascent of the mountain begins. The area is complete with tourist facilities such as a bus station, hotels, restaurants, a post office and banks.

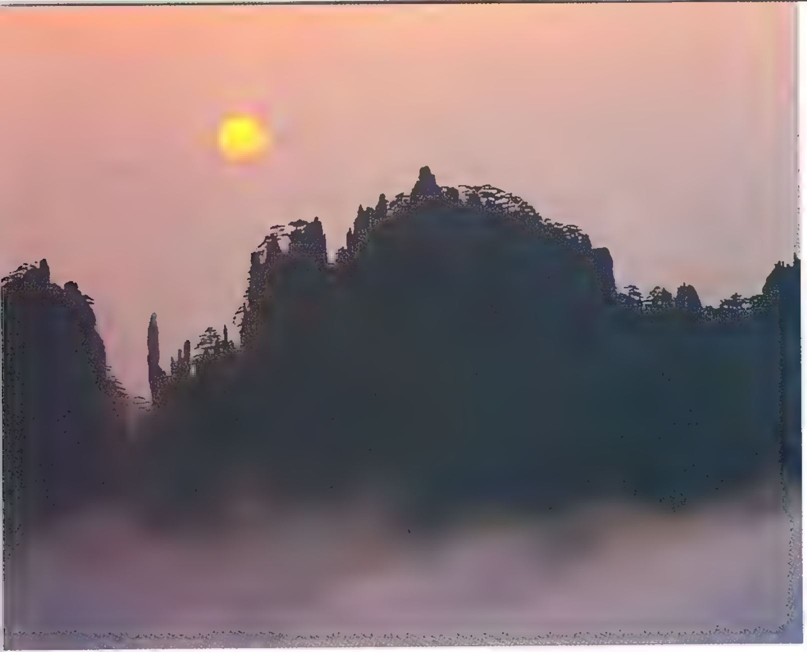
4

The clear water of the hot springs stays around 42 °C all year round. Studies have shown it contains many elements conducive to good health. Taking regular baths in the water will enhance one's health.

The area has waterfalls, springs and streams, against the backdrop of mountains. In front of the Waterfall Viewing Tower, one can see a waterfall divide into two as the water thunders down the cliffs. At the Waterfall Viewing Pavilion, one is rewarded with a view of the water falling hundreds of metres down the cliff face. An ancient Buddhist area, the Ciguang Pavilion is 1.5 kilometres north of the hot springs. Built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), it is one of the most well-kept temples on the mountain. Thick and tall trees give the place a quiet and tranquil environment. The temple has some famous sites including the Fayan Spring, Cloud-Draped Bridge and One Thousand Buddha Stove.

At Yungu Temple, northeast of the hot springs, one can see the largest waterfall at Huangshan Mountain, the Nine Dragon Waterfall, which roars down between the Incense Burner Peak and Arhat Peak, forming nine sections. It is especially spectacular after a heavy rainfall. The temple also marks the starting point of the cable way that leads to the White Goose Summit, from where one enters the Beihai Scenic Area.

黃山最幽靜處，古木參天，遮住了太陽，翠竹在風中搖曳生姿，令人頓生涼意，而瀑布從半空轟然而下，小溪的流水潺潺，更有傳說軒轅黃帝洗浴後返老還童的溫泉，遊人盡可在此體味那妙處。



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1. *Sunrise at Beihai (by Zhao Wei)*
2. *Dawn at Qingliang Terrace at Beihai (by Xie Guanghui)*
3. *The endless sea of clouds at Huangshan Mountain (by Xie Guan-ghui)*
4. *Winter scene at San-huawu at Beihai (by Ling Jun)*

those of us who had abandoned the bus and climbed on foot, we spent about three hours covering this distance. What happened later showed we had probably made a mistake in leaving the cable car, as when we returned from the south side of the mountain, we had to walk, and the undulating mountain path totally exhausted the weaker among us. In fact, there were all kinds of problems, so we had a tough time getting back to the hotel. Huangshan Mountain is full of beautiful sites and those who are going to spend only a short time (two or three days) there should be careful to preserve energy, and take great care of the feet.

A Gathering in Front of Shixin Peak

The entire North Sea is filled with green pines, but Shixin Peak is where all the strangely — shaped pine trees seem to cluster. Among the most famous are the Black Tiger Pine, the Reclining Dragon Pine and the Unicorn Pine. Walking on the path paved with stone slabs under the shade of the pines, a cool breeze blows dry one's shirt, usually drenched from the exertions of the climb. It is often so cool one needs to put on a pullover.

Though Shixin Peak in the eastern part of the mountain is almost 1,700 metres above sea level, when viewed from the Beihai Scenic Area it seems no more than a small but graceful heap of rocks. When I approached this heap of rocks, I saw a group of people gathered there. One of them turned out to be Mr. Lang Ching-shan, a 103-year-old photographer from Taiwan. His presence unmistakably proves the charm of the mountain and his ardent love for it.

I laboured my way to the top of the pile of rocks by putting my feet steadily into the deep foot holes in the stone and holding tightly to the iron chains. The heap of rocks has quite an elegant name: Zither

北海

THE BEIHAI SCENIC AREA

Beginning from the Beihai Hotel, this scenic area is an expansive space that includes the Lion Peak, the Rooster Peak, the Book Chest Peak, the Pagoda Peak, the Camel Back, the Writing Brush Holder Peak in the north and the Black Tiger Pine, the Immortal's Bridge, the Usher Pine and the Shixin Peak in the east.

Towering 1,690 metres above sea level, Lion Peak reminds one of a crouching lion facing west. Its head supports the Red Glow Peak, its waist Qinghang (Clear and Cool) Terrace and its tail the Morning Light Pavilion. On the summit of Lion Peak are such views as the "Monkey Looking at the Sea" and the Writing Brush Peak. In the lion's open mouth is the Lion Grove Temple. Nearby stand the pines named after pagoda and unicorn, and cypresses called Putuan and Phoenix. With so many beautiful sites clustered together, this spot is always where tourists begin their climbing, no matter which route they take.

4

Shixin Peak rises abruptly above the cliffs for 1,683 metres. Like the work of a magic axe, the peak is split into two halves from summit to foot. Below it are unfathomable valleys. To its east, the Reclining Dragon Pine, the Goddess of Mercy Peak and the Fairy Peak stand in a row. Strange rocks are found in the valleys and on the slopes. At the Stalagmite Bridge, stone pillars stand like spring bamboo shoots. Their strange looks give rise to such names as the "Immortals Playing Chess", "Prime Minister Viewing a Chess Match", "Bag-Carrying Immortal" and "Eighteen Arhats Viewing the South Sea". It is said that in ancient times when people came to the site, they found the place so beautiful that it resembled a painting. Only then did they understand that Huangshan Mountain was really a uniquely beautiful spot, thus the name of this peak Shixin (Seeing-Believing).

Beihai is one of the five seas of clouds at Huangshan Mountain. The north side of Lion Peak and Shixin Peak is very steep and the terrain in the valleys below is very complicated. When air currents run through these peaks and valleys, they are blocked here and there, resulting in a circling wind in the valleys, rising and falling frequently. Clouds and fog rise and fall with the current, now clustering together, now dispersing. In the morning, the sun casts its glow into the sea of clouds, creating a rainbow of colours. The Clear and Cool Terrace and the summit of Lion Peak offer the best places to view the sea of clouds and the sunrise.

在這個奇松怪石聚集

在一起的清涼世界，

波瀾壯闊的雲海翻騰，

湧動着昇起一個被洗濯

得盡善盡美的太陽。

3

The [illegible]

1.The 103-year-old veteran photographer from Taiwan, Mr. Lang Ching-shan going up Huangshan Mountain on a litter (by Lai Zuming)

2. Peaks at Xihai shrouded in cloud and fog (by Li Zhi)

3. By the railings at the Cloud Dispelling Pavilion on Huangshan Mountain, young people in love close tight the "heart-to-heart" lock and then throw the key down into the valley as a way to express their commitment to each other (by Xie Guanghui).

4. Even the washrooms on Huangshan Mountain are different (by Chan Yat Nin).

Terrace, because in ancient times, people were said to have played the Chinese zither here. Once on top of the terrace, I looked into the distance and discovered an entirely different view. To the north of Shixin Peak are sharp cliffs which seem to be carved by huge axes and knives. In the deep valley in front of the cliffs are mountain peaks which rise abruptly next to each other as if vying to be the tallest. The blue sky extends away from above the peaks with a few specks of white cloud in the far distance. Even when there is no sea of cloud, the peaks around Shixin Peak are magnificent. I could not help moving my arms to exercise my chest and I breathed deeply. There was a tremendous feeling of comfort and freshness.

Watching the Sunrise at Lion Peak

Worried that I would lose the others on the tour, I hurried down Zither Terrace, passing the Immortal's Bridge and Lion Grove Hermitage, and came to Lion Peak where I caught up with some companions, who were resting on a huge flat rock halfway up the peak. This rock has a flat surface of over 10 square metres and tilts slightly westward. The sun was warm and I sat down, not wanting to get up again. Then I simply lay down, shut my eyes and had a nap.

Standing in the northern part of Huangshan Mountain, Lion Peak is the best place to watch the sunrise and the sea of clouds. We studied the terrain and decided that we would reach the part of the peak resembling the shoulder of the lion next morning, but before that we would rest at the hotel where we had already made reservations.

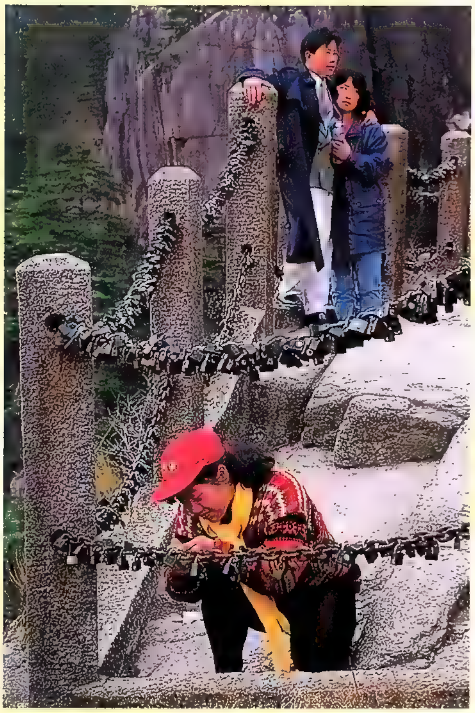
Just after 4:30 the next morning, we groped our way through the dark pine grove towards Lion Peak. We were dumbfounded when we discovered that around the spot we had chosen to watch the sunrise from, there were already people every-

2

西海

THE XIHAI SCENIC AREA

Going west from the Beihai Hotel and across Stone Drum Peak, one comes to the Xihai Scenic Area. The group of peaks at the entrance to Xihai (West Sea) are the most graceful in this scenic area. Mostly 1,550 metres high, they include Twin-Bamboo Shoot Peak, Dagger Peak, Flying Over Peak and Stone Bed Peak. Not being part of the 72 famous peaks, they are known by a collective name: Group Peaks of Xihai. Among them, the towering ones are impressive and magnificent, while the smaller ones are unusually graceful and elegant. Viewing these peaks from the Cloud Dispelling Pavilion when there is cloud or fog, they seem like sailing boats or solitary islands, now visible, now lost from sight. Nearby, there are rocks known as the "Immortal Drying His Shoes" and "Wu Song Killing a Tiger", and in the distance, the "Immortal on Stilts", the "Embroidery Fairy" and the "Heavenly Dog Looking at the Moon".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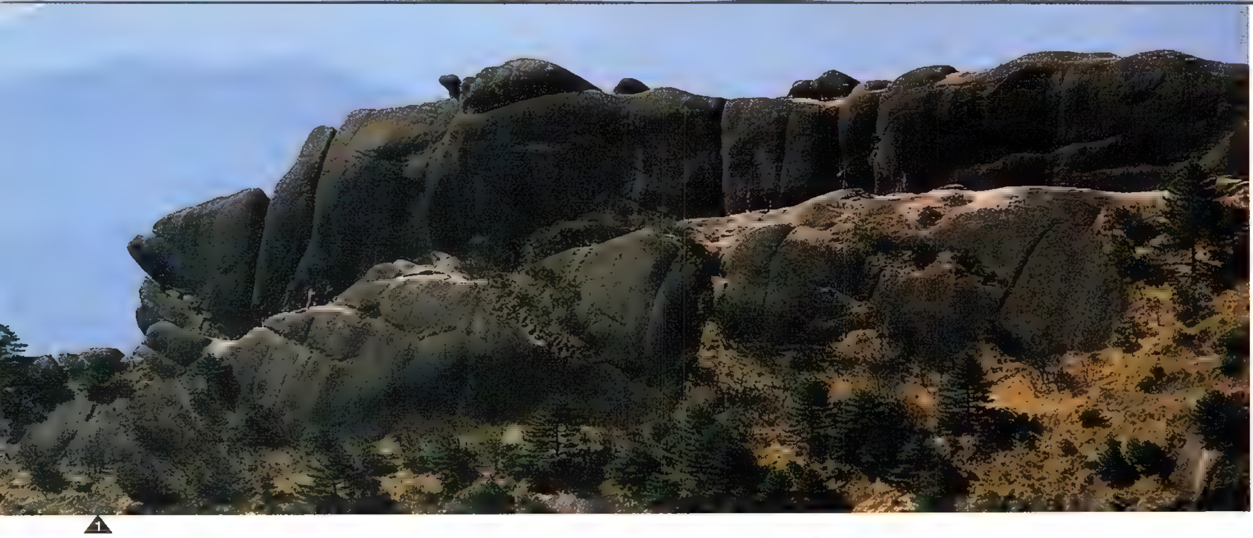
The Red Glow Peak is the only peak at Xihai that has a stairway leading to the summit. Rising 1,664 metres above sea level, the peak is covered with red cliffs which radiate colour in the evening glow. At the foot of the peak is a water source that feeds into the Red Glow Creek. The peak's summit offers a view of the Nine Dragon Peak, Pine Grove Peak and the Beyond Cloud Peak.

The colourful evening glow at Xihai presents one of the unique views at the mountain. The best place to view the glows is the Cloud Dispelling Pavilion. Rocks on the group peaks at Xihai present a vivid sight when cast with colourful clouds. When the sea of clouds reigns, the "Immortal on Stilts" offers a wonderful sight, as if an immortal were riding on the clouds.

夕陽西照下的群峰有一
層薄霧輕漫，使得
深壑幽谷顯得更爲神
秘。人跡罕至的
西海，令每個遠望的遊
客都沉浸在神話
般的境界中。

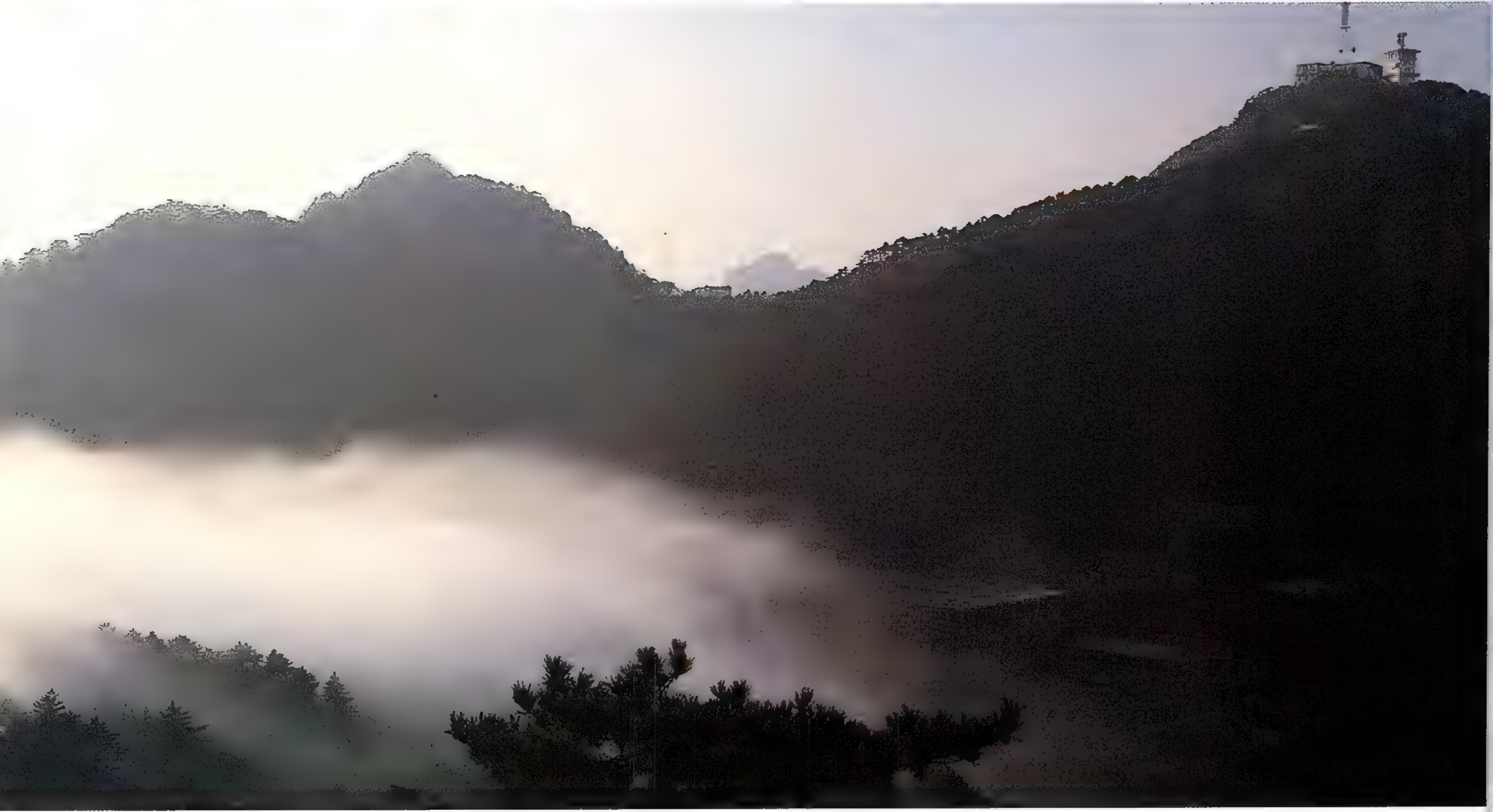
4



1

1. In the Tianhai Scenic Area, Turtle Peak looks like a huge turtle moving slowly with a baby turtle on her back (by Chan Yat Nin).
2. Guangming Summit is the second highest at Huangshan Mountain (by Zhao Wei)
3. A bird's-eye view of the peaks of Xihai from Guangming Summit (by Ling Jun)
4. The Flying Over Rock (by Xie Guanghui)

2



3

where. It turned out that everybody had chosen the same spot. We moved forward with great difficulty and could not get any closer than 30 metres from our destination. In between was a huge rock which had cliffs on two sides and thick pines on the third side.

We looked eastward through the pine branches and found that the entire scenic area had turned into a sea of clouds. In the thick clouds, the peaks in the far distance and the cliffs nearby seemed so close that we could reach out and ouch them. The clouds seemed to have frozen, moionless. In the grey sky, here was blue light against white background, as pure as ice and as beautiful as ade. People were very quiet, s if they had stopped breathing, waiting attenively for the moment when he sun rose. At 5:10, the louds began to rise gently. Then with a sudden gust of wind, they began to pour pwards, quickly spreading ver the slopes, up the peaks nd in a matter of minutes ngulfed Shixin Peak, Lion eak, the Beihai Hotel and s surroundings and all of s visitors.

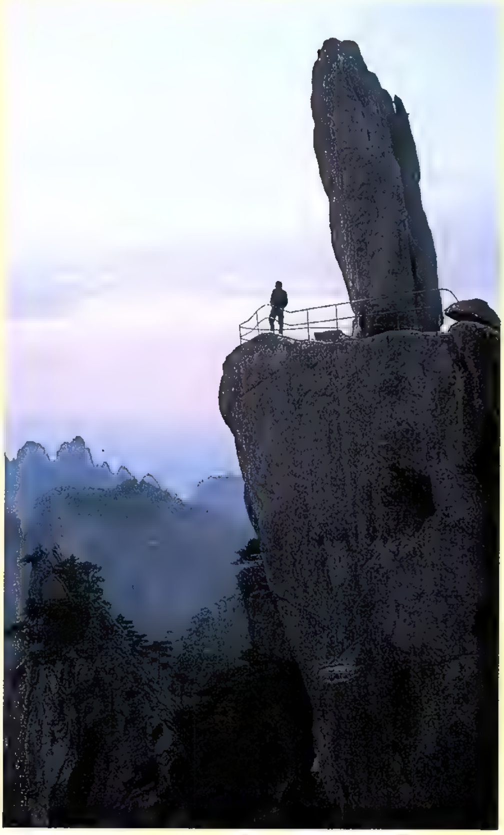
Thirty minutes passed nd the clouds became even hicker. Visibility was no nore than two metres now. Many people gave up and eft. It had already passed unrise time, but I had not ad one chance to use my amera. I did not want to give up just like that, and ound a spot which I had thought to be advantaeous the day before. When finally the clouds hinned out, we realized with amusement that ose who had remained were almost all from our oup.

The clouds and fog at Huangshan Mountain e highly changeable, and we did not wait in ain. At 6:00, the fog began to descend and, swept the wind, it descended with a rustling sound. omeone cried out in great surprise as the clouds and fog poured down from the summit of Shixin Peak into the deep valley below like a waterfall. The east was turning a pale red and a moment later, the top of the sun appeared. This was followed by a half face and then the entire round, red sun. The clouds and fog were still moving, and I could only sit down and watch the magic changes of nature, feeling as if I were afloat myself.

天海

THE TIANHAI SCENIC AREA

In the middle section of Huangshan Mountain, this scenic area is open and expansive. Its famous peaks include Yanggong Mountain, Guangming (Enlightenment) Summit, Immortality Pill-Making Peak, Stone Gate Peak, Chess Board Peak and the Immortal Peach Peak, standing in a north-south line. There are also scenic sites called the "Phoenix Pine" and the "Dragon's Head Rock".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Being the second highest peak at Huangshan Mountain, Guangming Summit is 1,860 metres above sea level. During the Ming Dynasty, a monk named Pu Men had a temple built on the summit and now a weather station stands there. The summit is large and flat and offers an ideal place to view Donghai (East Sea), the Group Peaks of Xihai and such peaks as the Tiandu (Heavenly Capital), Lotus Flower and Immortality Pill-Making Peak in the south. In the north, Mount Jiuhua and the Yangtse River appear in the distance now and then. As a folk saying has it, "Unless you have been to the Enlightenment Peak, you have not been to Mount Huangshan."

The Immortality Pill-Making Peak, which is 1,827 metres above sea level, received its name from a legend, according to which the Yellow Emperor, along with Rong Chengzi and Fu Qiugong, tried to make pills of immortality here. Now on the peak is a stone chamber which houses an "immortality pill-making stove". In front of the peak is the Immortality Pill-Making Terrace. The Immortality Pill-Making Valley is thick with trees and strange-looking rocks.

凌晨登上光明頂，東望始信峰，只見旭日緩緩爬上雲端；南邊有天都、蓮花二峰矗立，而西面在雲海中沉浮的，是飛來石、排雲亭。

Visiting Huangshan Mountain Once Again

One visit to Huangshan Mountain left me with unforgettable memories of its natural beauty. I still vividly remember to this day sitting at Lion Peak for two hours, experiencing repeatedly the caressing wash of the clouds and fog, before we reluctantly bid farewell to the North Sea. We then went westward for 1.5 kilometres to Paiyun (Cloud Dispelling) Pavilion to see the peaks at Xihai (West Sea). As we approached the Flying Over Rock, and ascended Guangming Summit, fog followed us and soon covered the entire mountain. As we had seen, from June to October the clouds and fog at the mountain could rise very high. We followed other tourists and with visibility at about 40 metres, descended Guangming Summit, crossed the Heavenly Sea, climbed Turtle Peak, went through Turtle Cave, climbed the 100-step Cloud Ladder, came down through the 800-step Lotus Flower Gully and passed the Jade Screen Tower before winding up our trip. Though we had a good look at the views at Beihai, there were many places we did not have the time to see. Thus I left planning to make a return trip soon.

Early March is still winter on Mount Huangshan. Knowing that winter there had a special charm, I went there one day when it looked like raining. According to one folk saying "When it rains in winter along the Yangtse River, it will snow on Mount

1

2

1. It is very pleasureable to sit and rest on the summit of Jade Screen Peak (by Chan Yat Nin).
2. A stone stairway spiralling up the Jade Screen Peak which is covered with bizarre rocks (by Ling Jun).
3. A small reservoir and viewing pavilion at the foot of Jade Screen Peak (by Xie Guanghui)

Huangshan." In addition to a rain coat, a first aid kit and other necessities I had already packed, I bought a walking stick and a pair of large straw sandals at the foot of the mountain.

This time I decided to climb along the south side. That night it had rained heavily. As I began the trip in the early morning, it was still drizzling. Dark clouds hung overhead and there was a cold wind. Normally crowded and lively, Huangshan Mountain now seemed deserted, with few visitors. This suited me well. I pushed forward with determination, amidst the sounds of rain and wind beating the trees, the river water washing the rocks, and my own footsteps.

Endless Scenic Sites

After I had gone past the Dragon's Return Bridge and Ciguang Pavilion, the rain stopped. Looking at the jade-like peaks in the distance, I was filled with great pleasure. The white lights must be snow! The stairway between the Black Phoenix Bridge and the Banshan (Mountain Slope) Temple was covered with a layer of thin ice and very slippery. In front of the emple, all alone, I looked up at Tiandu Peak, on which there is a rock reembling a rooster crowng, with its neck stretched nd wings spread open to he Heavenly Threshold. This site is known as the Golden Rooster Crowing at the Heavenly Gate".

To my disappointment, the path to Tiandu Peak was closed to visitors. I took out the large traw sandals and put them over my shoes. Then I urned left. A few steps led me to a place where wo peaks stood on both sides of a path, as if I had ome to a gate. It turned out that this was the Heavenly Threshold. The peak on the left is the ade Screen Peak, while on the right is Tiandu eak. Here the wind was really strong. In summer the visitor would immediately cool off, but now it was bitingly cold. Not wanting to linger in the bitterly cold wind, I hurried on my way along the newly opened Jade Screen Peak staircase. I walked past the Slope of Carefulness, the Putuan Rock, Reclining Dragon Cave, the Immortal's Bridge and came to A Slit of the Sky at the Jade Screen Peak. A Slit of the Sky is a strategic path that leads one to the summit of the Jade Screen Peak. Having covered a dozen steps, I looked back and saw three peaks of different heights. Strangely shaped pines grew on the peaks. These peaks, I realized, were the "Three Penglai Islands". Further along the way, I went through the Manjusri Cave, saw the Guest Welcoming Pine and arrived at the Jade Screen Tower.

玉屏

THE YUPING TOWER SCENIC AREA

Also called the Qianhai (Front Sea) Scenic Area, it boasts more tall peaks than any other. In the front is Tiandu Peak and in the rear Lotus Flower Peak, both of which pierce the sky. Nearby are Yuping (Jade Screen) Peak, Ox Nose Peak, Ploughing Cloud Peak, Lotus Pistil Peak, Monk's Palm Peak, Monk's Bowl Peak and many others. The Manjusri Temple which used to stand here has long been ruined. Instead, the Yuping Tower Hotel stands in its grounds for the pleasure and convenience of visitors.

3

In this scenic area, the visitor can see wonderfully shaped rocks, such as the "Immortal Riding Across the Sea", the "Golden Turtle Viewing the Moon", the "Peacock Playing with the Lotus Flower", the "Rhinoceros Looking at the Moon" and strange-looking pines called the Guest Welcoming Pine and the Guest Send-off Pine.

The 1,810-metre-high Tiandu Peak is the most precipitous and magnificent among the three main peaks at Huangshan Mountain. In ancient days, people described it as a place where "all immortals gathered", thus its present name. On the way up the peak, the climber will have to pass dangerous spots such as the Tiger's Mouth, the Ten Thousand-Step Cliffs, the Cloud and Fog Path, Viewing the Spring Pine, the Carp Spine Rock, Looking-at-the-Sea Pine and the Heavenly Ladder. The Carp Spine Rock is 30 metres long but only one metre wide. Moreover, its surface is very slippery. On both sides are deep valleys. Looking into the valleys from the rock is very scary. Now, protective railings of stone and iron have been built. The fantastic view from the summit of about 1,000 graceful and cloud-shrouded peaks makes the climb worthwhile and rewarding.

Lianhua Peak, 1,864 metres above sea level, is the highest peak at Huangshan Mountain. A cluster of smaller peaks surrounds the main peak to create the image of a flowering lotus. The peak is also known for the pines called the Flying Dragon and the Twin Dragon as well as the scenic spots called the Moon Pond and Fragrant Sand Pond.

The Most Beautiful Spot

The Jade Screen Tower, a hotel built on a site formerly home to a temple, stands 1,680 metres above sea level and occupies the most beautiful spot on Huangshan Mountain. To look at the mountain from this position, one is rewarded with views of rolling peaks, pine groves and deep gullies. On its right is Tiandu Peak and on the left the Lotus Flower Peak, which shoot gracefully into the sky. Snow covered the summits of many surrounding peaks which sparkled in the sunlight. Sturdy pines grow crookedly on strange rocks, or straight upward, or jutting out from the cliffs, or clinging to the mountain side. Since in winter the foliage was thin, they looked all the more determined and strong. Icicles hung from the branches, adding much beauty to the pines.

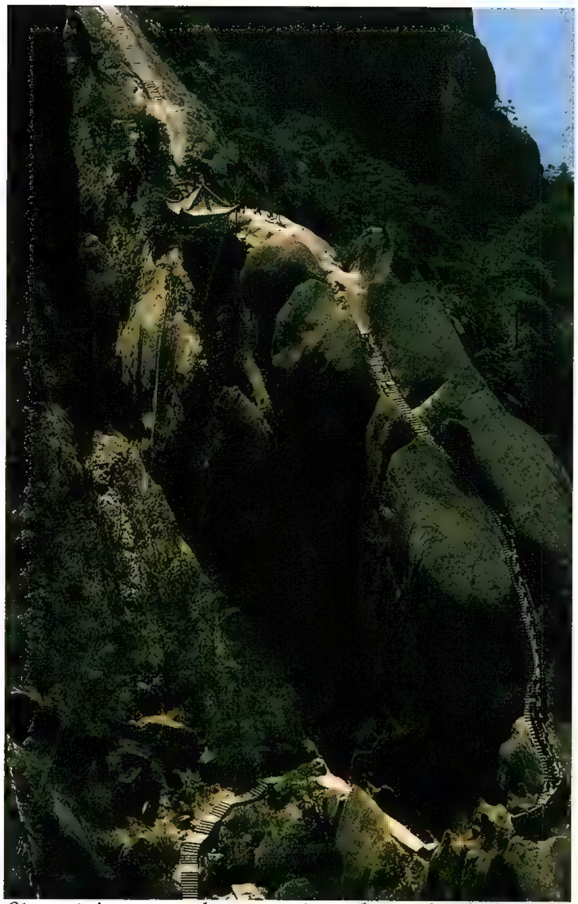
Overwhelmed by the beautiful views, I decided to stay longer and checked in at the Jade Screen Tower for the night. I got up early the next morning and went straight out of the hotel. To my surprise, a heavy snow

一座座奇峰突兀挺拔，
彷彿要刺破青天，狹窄陡峭的
石階，送遊人去摘星追
日。沿途松樹在風中呼嘯，
大自然磅礡險峻的氣勢懾人。

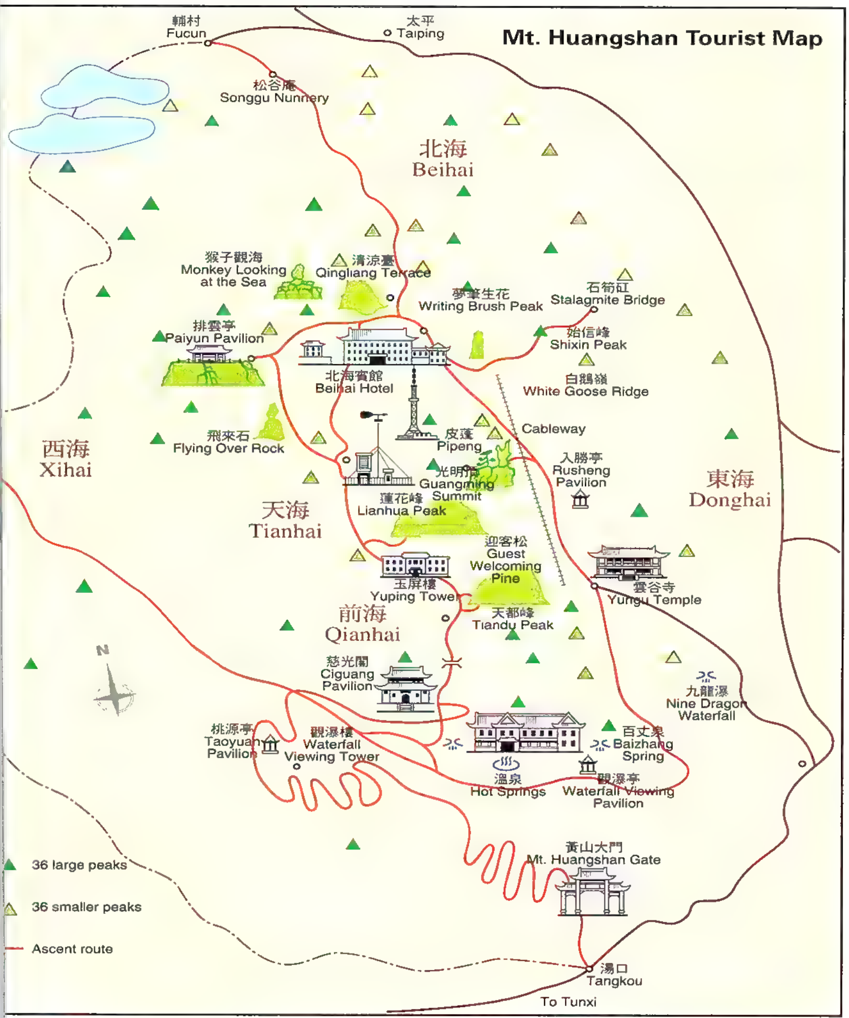
The "Three Penglai Islands" look all the more graceful and magnificent in the snow (by Xie Guanghui).

Tiandu Peak is doubly beautiful when covered with snow and shrouded by cloud (by Ling Jun).

otus Flower Peak seems close-by when viewed from the "Carp Spine" at the summit of iandu Peak (by Ling Jun).



Stone stairways up the mountain on the south side (by Chan Yat Nin)



had fallen during the night and the snow on the path in front of the hotel was more than 15 centimetres deep. All the peaks on the mountain were now covered with snow, as were the gullies, presenting a unique and fascinating sight. Only the rocks standing against the wind remained dark in colour, creating a sharp contrast with the otherwise universally white surroundings.

The most spectacular view was of the "Three Penglai Islands" which amidst the world of ice and snow now seemed to be three pieces of sculpture carved from black glass.

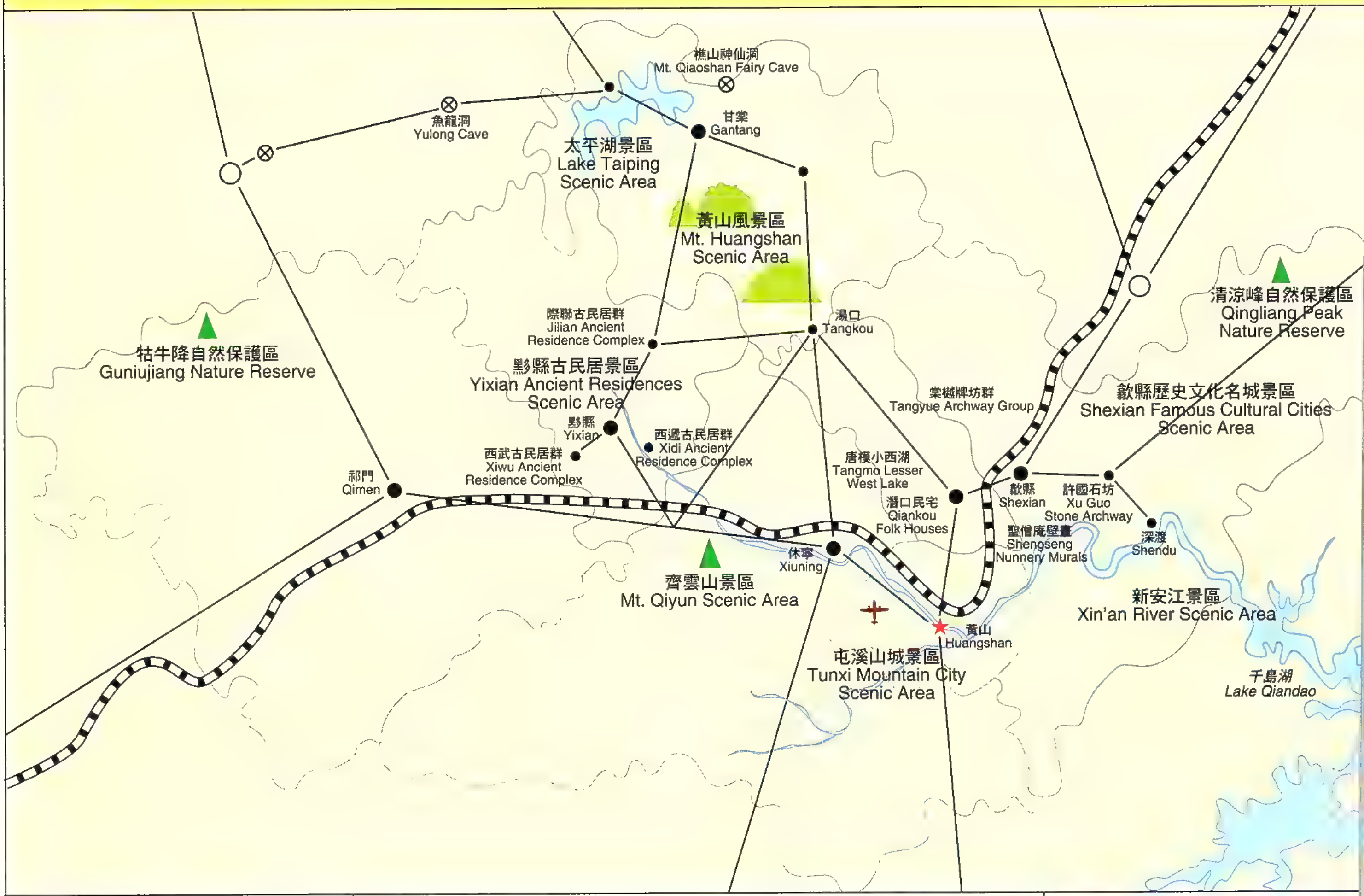
The weatherman said that the temperature would continue to drop which make it very unlikely that the sea of clouds would appear. For me, it did not make sense to go any further in this weather and so I stayed one more night at the Jade Screen Tower. At the hotel I was happy to learn that a cable way was being built to the Jade Screen Peak and more stone stairways would be opened on other peaks.

The next day, I had a satisfying look at the snowy scenery in the Yuping Scenic Area and the lofty peaks of Lotus Flower and Tiandu. Then I bid farewell to the Jade Screen Tower and the Guest Welcoming Pine and went down the mountain, wondering again when I would come back.

Translated by Huang Youyi

An Itinerary Around Huangshan City

ARTICLE BY
HU SHOUZHI

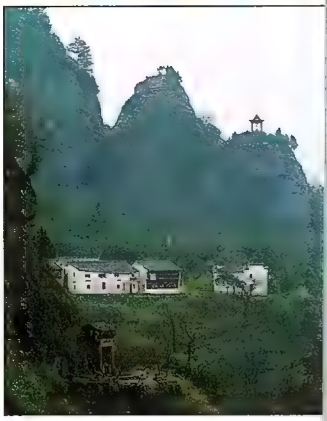


Huangshan City in southern Anhui Province offers a variety of attractions. For the traveller with six or seven days, here is a suggested itinerary that covers all the important sights.

Day One: Tunxi-Qiyun-Xilin

Arriving in Tunxi, the best places to stay are the Tunxi Guesthouse or the Huangshan Dianli Guesthouse in the city centre. Early the next morning, you can visit one of China's four great Taoist mountains, Mount Qiyun, 33 kilometres west of Tunxi. The scenery is beautiful, and there is much interesting Taoist culture, as well as some fascinating cliff-carvings. The mountain is only 585 metres high, but it has 36 rugged peaks and a large number of Taoist temples, shrouded in mist for most of the year, adding to the impression of slightly mysterious repose and sanctity. Cable cars

The stone archway at Xidi Village in Yixian County (by Chan Yat Nin)


Mount Qiyun in Xiuning is one China's four major Taoist mou tains (by Xie Guanghui).

take you to the top in under minutes, where you can watch Taoist ceremony at Zhenwudi Temple, and sample Taoist ve etarian food at the Fuyun Resta rant, both of which lie in t Yuehua Street Scenic Area Mount Qiyun.

ocal dwellings at Yixian's Hongcun Village are ingeniously arranged round streams and ponds (by Xie Guanghui).

After lunch, take the cable car ack down, and go to Xidi Vilage in Yixian County. The vilage is like a museum of Ming nd Qing-dynasty architecture. riginally settled in the Northrn Song period (960-1127), it till has several hundred ancient ouses, tucked away in narrow lleys between high walls, and a reat deal of the original archiecture and layout has remained ntact. Most of the houses have oor and window frames of lack marble, and are decorated ith stone carvings of plants and nimals, colourful murals and arved wood. Simple food is vailable at the Mingjingyuan arden Restaurant. Afterwards, short journey will take you to Yixian, where you can stay at the Biyang Villa.

Day Two: Yixian-Hongcun-Lake Taiping

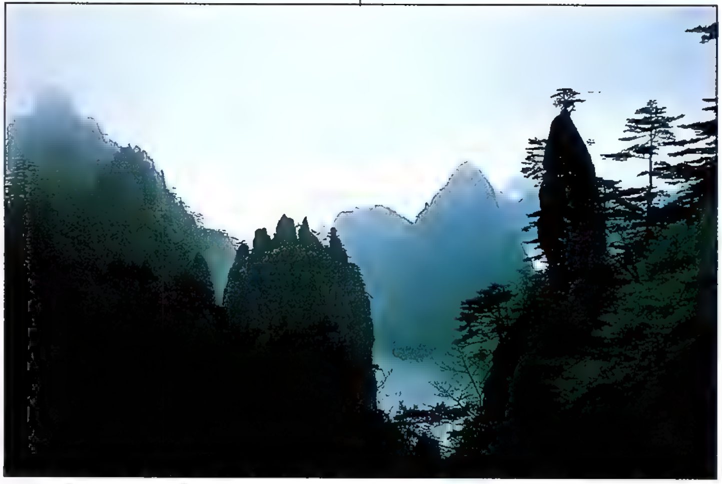
The next morning, go to Hongcun Village, 10 kilometres north of Yixian, which is also renowned for its ancient architecture, and also has several hundred ancient houses left intact. The most famous example of this is the 2,000 square metre Chengzhi Hall. Built by a wealthy salt merchant during the Qing Dynasty, it is the best preserved piece of architecture in Yixian County, and, as such, unmissable.

Sixty kilometres north of Hongcun is Gantang Town, the seat of the district government of Huangshan. This is a good spot for lunch and it is worth taking a boat trip on Taiping, an 88 square kilometre man-made lake. After the boating, it is 30 kilometres to the Feicui Guesthouse at the foot of Huangshan Mountain's Xiandu Peak.

ast Lake Taiping (by Chan Yat Nin)

Day Three: Huangshan Mountain-Feicui Valley-Yungu Temple-Beihai

In the morning, explore Feicui Valley and Yuxi Creek, which are dotted with hundreds of amazingly colourful lakes and ponds, often referred to as the fifth wonder of Huangshan (the other four being pines, rocks, clouds and mist).



Writing Brush Peak at Beihai Scenic Area on Huangshan Mountain (by Qiu Qunguang)

Six kilometres south of the valley is the Huangshan Scenic Area. After passing the hot springs area there is a road which takes you up to Yungu Temple, 880 metres above sea level. Have lunch here in the tranquil atmosphere of the Yungu Villa, surrounded by peaks, trees and mists. There are also a large number of bizarrely-shaped rocks and cliffs, the legacy of the glaciers of the Quaternary Period.

In the afternoon, take the cable car to White Goose Ridge and the Beihai Scenic Area. Beihai has all of Huangshan's four wonders. Pines grow on sheer cliffs into strange and contorted shapes, earning them names such as Black Tiger Pine, Dragon Claws Pine, and so forth. There are also mists, the peaks and the strangely-shaped rocks. Walk up Shixin Peak, which , at 1,668 metres is one of Huangshan's 36 smaller peaks, but one of its loveliest. From here, descend to the Beihai Hotel. From the hotel there is a path which leads to Qingliang Terrace, which is the best place to watch the sun rise at dawn over the famed sea of clouds. The terrace is over 1,700 metres up Shixin Peak. At the summit of the peak are a number of Huangshan's oddly-shaped rocks. One of these, a lone upright rock standing on a flat plane, looks rather like a monkey. The monkey appears to be gazing out across the peaceful and beautiful landscape below it, or at the sea of clouds when that appears. Fifteen kilometres to the west is the Paiyun Pavilion, an ideal place to watch the spectacular sunset. The night can either be spent at the Beihai Hotel

Pines growing on sheer cliffs at Beihai feature strange and contorted shapes (by Zheng Changyi).

or the Xihai Hotel, both close to here.

Day Four: Huangshan Mountain-Xihai-Guangming Summit-Lotus Peak

You start the day early, at about 4 a.m. (see the table on page 85) if you want to see the sun rise from Qingliang Terrace, but it is one of China's greatest sights, and as such, well worth it. (If you stay at the Xihai Hotel, Danxia Peak offers equivalently lovely views.) After breakfast, go to Flying Over Rock. This huge rock, 12 metres high, three metres thick and weighing over 360 tons, seems to have just landed out of the sky and is just resting on its base. The rock also resembles a giant peach, so is sometimes called Xiantao (Fairy Peach) Peak.

Going east from here takes you to Guangming Summit, where a stone bridge marks the division of the front and back of Huangshan, and has good views of both parts. It is 1,840 metres above sea level, and is the second highest peak on Huangshan. There are two possibilities from here. If you feel you've had enough exercise, stay here for a while enjoying the views, and then go north to the Beihai Scenic Area, and take the cable car down to the Beihai Hotel for lunch. If Huangshan has exerted its usual magic and you are hungry for more, descend southwards to the Tianhai Scenic Area and climb the steps to Lotus Peak, Huangshan's highest peak, at 1,864 metres. The peak is surrounded by smaller peaks, like the petals of a lotus. Once you have drunk your fill of the magnificent views, retrace your steps to the foot of the peak, and make for Yuping Tower, two and a half kilometres away. The path descends steeply, but there are handrails and fences.

Yuping Tower is tucked between two of Huangshan's tallest peaks, Lotus Peak and Tiandu Peak, and is the site of a former Buddhist temple built in the 17th century. In front of the building, now a guesthouse, stand two of Huangshan's most famous pines. Because of the manner in which their branches are shaped, one looks as if it is welcoming guests, the other as if saying goodbye to them. The guesthouse has wonderful views from its two terraces, and is a good place to spend the night.

Day Five: Huangshan Mountain-Yuping Tower-Tiandu Peak-Ciguang Pavilion-Hot Springs

Leaving Yuping Tower the next morning, make your way to Tiandu Peak, one of the three main peaks of Huangshan. If you don't want to climb the 1,810 metres of the peak, there is a path down to Banshan Temple. The path to the summit is 1.5 kilometres long, and is known as the "sky ladder". The handrails at the top, mysteriously, are festooned with padlocks. These are locked here by lovers, who fasten the lock and then throw the key down into the valley below, to symbolise their commitment to each other and the unbreakable nature of their bonds. From the summit on a clear day, you can see Mount Jiuhua, one of China's four sacred Buddhist mountains and the Yangtse River rolling slowly across southern Anhui The walk downhill, which is steep but not dangerous, passes Banshan Temple, a good place fo a rest and a cup of tea, and ends a Ciguang Pavilion at the foot o Zhusha Peak. This was formerly Buddhist temple during the Ming and Qing dynasties, but has been converted into a museum. From the pavilion, it is easy to get back to the hot springs area, wher you can stay at either th Taoyuan Guesthouse or th Huangshan Guesthouse, bot three-star establishments.

Twin-Bamboo Shoot Peak among the Group Peaks of Xihai (by Chan Yat Nin)

The best way to tour Huangshan Mountain takes three days, but there are alternatives to the itinerary suggested above. You can start from the hot springs area, pass Ciguang Pavilion and climb Tiandu Peak, spending the night at Yuping Tower. The next day, climb Lotus Peak and spend he night at Xihai. The next morn-ng, watch the sunrise at Beihai, go to Bai'e Ridge and either walk or take the cable car back down.

Another way to see Huanghan would be to stay at Beihai he first day, then go up Baiyun New Way via Tianhai where you pend the second night, finally escending via Yuping Tower on he third day. A third alternative would be to stay at Yuping Tower he first day, the second day at ianhai, trying the Baiyun New Way, and on the third day going o Songgu (Pine Valley) scenic rea via Beihai and finishing at ake Taiping.

Day Six: Qiankou-Tangyue-Shexian

An hour's drive south of uangshan Mountain is Qiankou. leven Ming-dynasty houses have been erected here which for-erly stood in other parts of outhern Anhui. The group of ouses, collectively known as xia (Purple Haze) Villas, are amples of the best of Hui-style chitecture, and are arranged to a village with pavilions and ancestral hall. Various folk ex-bitions are usually on display r visitors.

Six kilometres south of Qiankou he ancient town of Yansi, home of e Xuhaifeng International Shoot-g Range, as well as ancient architecture and lovely natural scenery. Lunch is available at the Huangshan Regent Hotel and the Yansi Guesthouse.

East of Yansi is the village of Tangyue, famed for its seven large archways, four from the Qing Dynasty and three from the Ming. There are also two magnificent ancestral halls, one for men and one, rather unusually, especially considering its size, for women.

Less than half an hour from Tangyue is one of Anhui's most famous cities, Shexian. Formerly the seat of government of the ancient Huizhou (where the "hui" of Anhui came from), the city has many fine tourist attractions. Well worth seeing are the magnificent Xu Guo Stone Archway, celebrating the achievements of one of Shexian's brilliant scholars, dating from 1584, as well as Doushan Street with its ancient houses, wells, arches and sculptures, and the classical Ziyang Study. Shexian is really one big historical and cultural museum, and a crucial part of any trip to Anhui. Dahua Guesthouse and Xin'an Guesthouse both provide comfortable accommodation in Shexian. If you plan to go to Lake Qiandao at Xindu, you can go a further 26 kilometres east from Shexian and stay at the Xindu Guesthouse, from where you can take the 66-kilometre cruise along the Xin'an River to the lake.

Day Seven: Shexian-Tunxi

From Shexian, travel west for 27 kilometres to Tunxi, the capital of Huangshan City. This city is full of old houses and lanes, with the Xin'an River flowing through the centre of town. Liaojie (Old Street) is one of the most famous sights in Tunxi, nearly a kilometre long, lined with Ming and Qing buildings turned into shops selling local products, antiques and arts and crafts. Have lunch at either the Huashan Guesthouse or the Xin'anjiang Guesthouse, then gently explore more of Tunxi, as you wind down your trip around Huangshan City.

This suggested itinerary covers almost everything of interest in the area: the scenery, the architecture and the local culture. It is not expensive and it is very convenient. However, travellers can alter the route to suit themselves, perhaps spending longer at Huangshan Mountain.

Translated by Megina Kwan

The ancient Laojie Street in Tunxi is a centre for many of Huizhou's distinctive local products (by Chan Yat Nin).

Huangshan Area

Situated next to Lake Taiping at the northern foot of Huangshan Mountain, the area formerly known as Taiping County has a history of over a thousand years. The area is now a renowned spot for people who are convalescing, due to its peace and tranquility. In addition to Lake Taiping reservoir, there is also Shenxian Cave, famous for its deep pools and its strange rock formations. The area is famous for its fish from the lake, and its tea.

Shexian

Twenty-seven kilometres east of Tunxi, this was the seat of the Huizhou government, and is now famous throughout China for its historical and cultural links. It contains many examples of Ming and Qing-dynasty architecture, and is definitely worth a visit.

Xiuning

Haiyang is Xiuning's major town, established in the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220). Interesting cultural relics include a bell and drum tower from the Southern Dynasties period (420-589), which is now a museum. Mount Qiyun in the western suburbs is one of China's four Taoist mountains, and has any fascinating cultural and scenic diversions, including the chance to be able to see authentic Taoist culture, and the rock carvings on the cliffs there.

Tunxi

Situated by the Xin'an River, Tunxi has a population of 120,000, and is the political, cultural and economic capital of Huangshan City. As well as Laojie shopping area, it is also worth visiting the former residence hall of the Ming-dynasty abacus master Cheng Dawei and the memorial hall of the Qing philosopher Dai Zhen.

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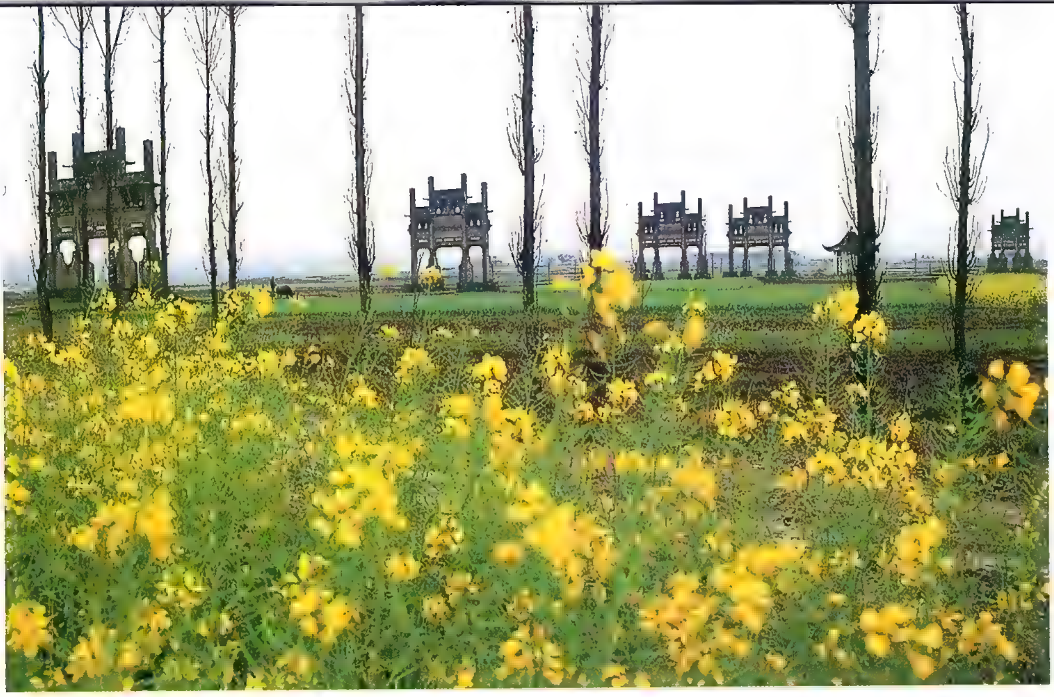

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1. One of the wonders of China: seven stone archways in a row, situated at the entrance to Tangyue Village, Shexian County (by Chan Yat Nin)

2. The territory of ancient Huizhou Prefecture extended as far as the foot of Mount Huangshan. The houses, with their distinctive tall whitewashed walls and jet-black roofs are steeped in the venerable local tradition of architecture which recalls a Ming-dynasty town (by Chan Yat Nin).

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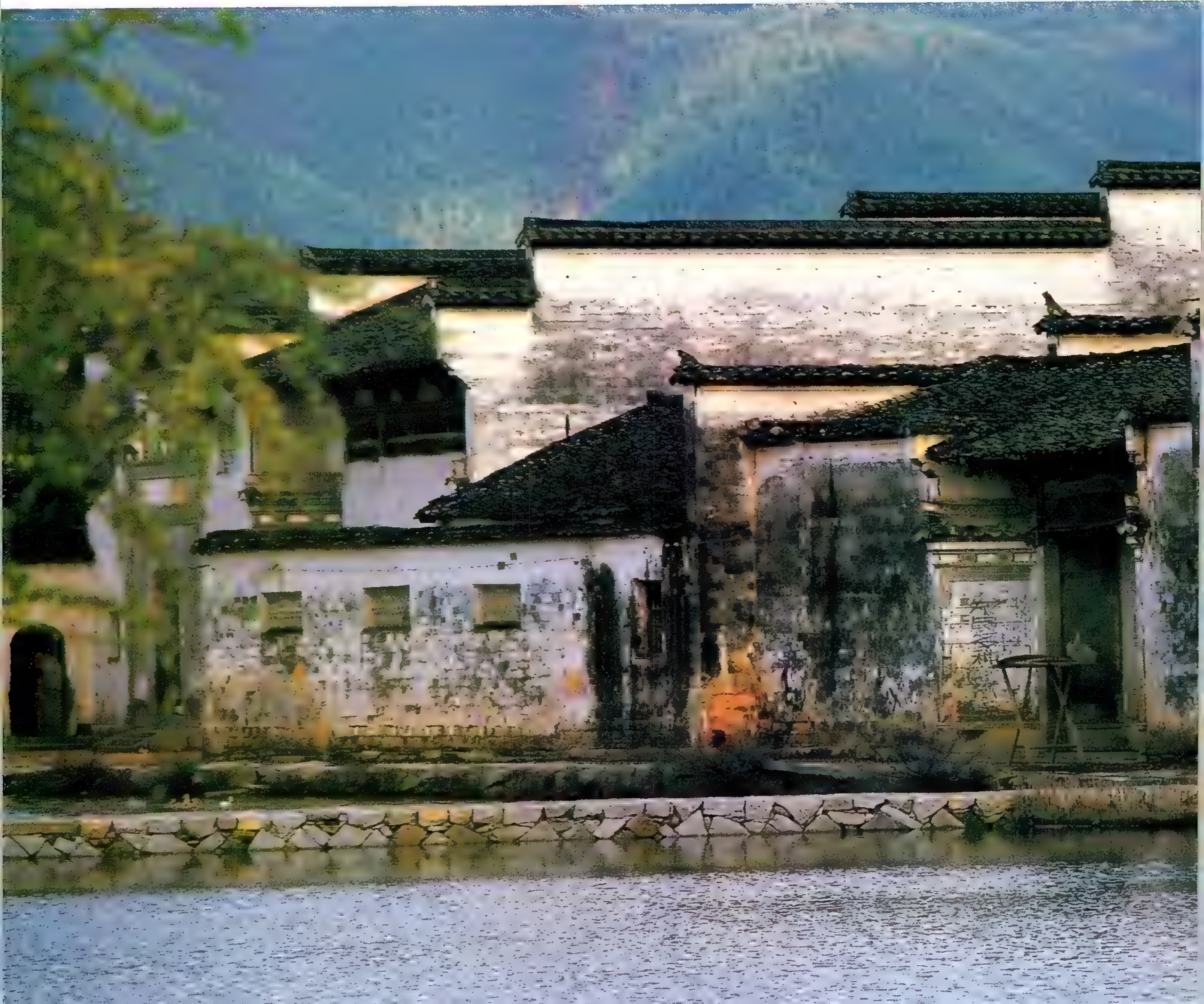
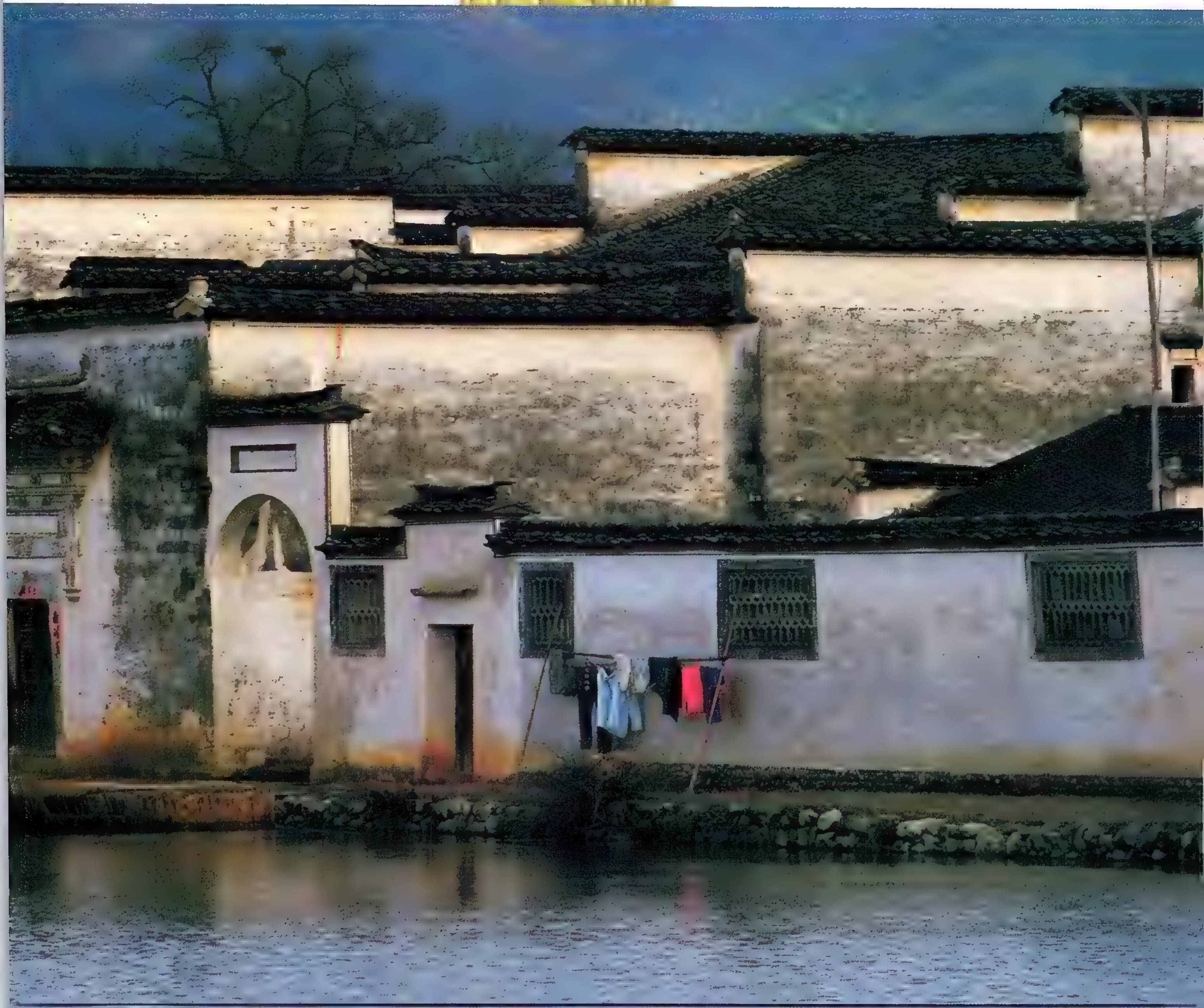


SHEXIAN COUNTY

—The Cradle of "Huizhou Culture"—

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY XIE GUANGHUI



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It was dawn when I left Chun'an in Zhejiang Province aboard a passenger liner making the 50-kilometre journey to Shendu in Anhui Province. The boat carried 200 passengers. Tourists relaxed in the cabins on the upper deck, while the lower deck was occupied by locals, surrounded by their baskets of merchandise and arm produce.

The mirror-like Qiandao (Thousand-Islet) Lake lay tranquil and quiet. The shapes of isets shimmered faintly in the morning mist. n the late 1950s, a huge dam was built at Baisha Town in Jiande County to build the Xin'anjiang Reservoir. As a result, the seat of Chun'an County was submerged under more than 70 metres of water, and mountain ops protruded from the water's surface to ecome countless islets. Hence the name, Thousand-Islet Lake. The reservoir was reently designated as an international natural nvironmental monitoring centre by the United Nations.

Two hours later our liner entered the uper section of the Xin'anjiang River. Hemmed in between lush green mountains, he river reminded me of the Three Gorges n the Yangtse River. The sky darkend as we ailed past Jiekou Town and entered Shexian ounty. Fluffy clouds closed in and it started rizzling. Southern China looks its best in he rain, for the moist air and the diaphaous curtain of rain gives an air of classic somnity and repose to its picture-postcard ndscape.

Villages drifted by one after another, and abled walls gradually gave way to layer pon layer of towering "fire-prevention alls". It was springtime and the houses, hose whitewashed walls and black-tiled oftops are striking features of the Anhui yle of Chinese architecture, were bowered a riot of peach and pear flowers and surunded by a golden patchwork of rape fields. In e distance, fishing boats were plying the water at the ot of a mountain.

A Highway-on-Water

In the days when shoulder-poles and draught animals ere the main means of transportation, the local people garded the Xin'anjiang River as a godsend thoroughfare-on-water. Boats of all descriptions sailed to and fro constantly, shipping tea, bamboo, timber and other local specialities out of Huizhou Prefecture in exchange for salt, kerosene, cloth and seafood from elsewhere. The bustling waterway brought an economic boom. When local merchants had garnered enough profit they invested lavishly in education, turning the prefecture into a thriving cultural centre. During the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties, the six counties in Huizhou produced 618 scholars who passed the supreme imperial examinations, making up 1.2 per cent of the nation's total number of successful candidates during these two periods. In modern times the place was home to another crop of famous men of letters.

Our passenger liner pulled in at Shendu Ferry Pier at 11:30 p.m. There I took a minibus to the seat of Shexian County. The centre of Huizhou Prefecture in bygone days, Shexian County abounds in cultural relics and places of historical interest. The next day I went to Jiefang Street to see the stone memorial archway, dedicated to Xu Guo, one of the local candidates who had passed the top-class imperial exams. The archway resembles a masterpiece of carpentry. Poised on eight solid pillars over the entrance to the street, it looks like a sedan chair of colossal proportions. Under the archway, traffic is heavy on Jiefang Street, on which life in Shexian County is pivoted. The archway is carved on all four sides with inscriptions in the hand of Dong Qichang, a celebrated Ming-dynasty calligrapher. Both ends of the stone beams are sculpted in the shape of the head of a Chinese royal sceptre and carved with low relief. The rhombus-shaped frames in the middle are graced with patterns in sharp relief and bear calligraphic inscriptions which liken the gateway to a giant dragon on the verge of take-off, a fish jumping over the dragon gate or an eagle hovering over the court of the Dragon King. Twelve stone lions, squatting, standing, galloping or prancing, are placed by the plinths of the pillars; carved in a simple and unrestrained style, they epitomize the Huizhou style of stone sculpture. For a time the landscape of Shexian County had been

THE ANCIENT HUIZHOU PREFECTURE

The name "Huizhou" was first recorded in 1121, used by Emperor Huizong of the Song Dynasty, less than a fortnight after his troops recaptured Shezhou and five other counties taken by the insurrectionary peasant army led by Fang La. The name "hui" implies happiness and auspiciousness. Later, Shexian became the capital of Huizhou Prefecture.

The ancient Huizhou Prefecture was composed of the six counties of Shexian, Xiuning, Qimen, Yixian, Jixi and Wuyuan, which covered parts of Anhui, Fujian and Jiangxi provinces. Later, three more counties — Jingde, Taiping and Shitai — and Tunxi City were also included in the prefecture.

In 1978 the Prefecture of Huizhou was rescinded, and Huangshan City was set up to administer most of what was the ancient Huizhou Prefecture. The new city consists of Tunxi, Huangshan and Huizhou districts, and the counties of Shexian, Yixian, Xiuning and Qimen.

1. The Memorial Hall of Li Bai, a noted Tang-dynasty poet
2. The tall gables of the houses along Doushan Street, a typical lane of Huizhou architecture, form an impressive zigzag skyline above the landscape of Shexian County.
3. The well-known Stone Archway of Xu Guo

▲1

strewn with stone archways, and some 80 of them have een preserved to this day. None of them can match the archway in front of Yanghe Gate named fter Xu Guo in size and artistic excelence.

Xu Guo was by no means an imporant figure in the history of the Ming Dynasty, but he happened to live durng a period when merchants in Huizhou were doing lucrative business. Vith the money rolling in, the construcion of luxury houses and the erection of tone archways became fashionable. The local merchants, who knew how mportant power was to success in the usiness world, were so proud of a felow provincial who had climbed so high p the ladder of officialdom that they vere only too willing to loosen the trings of their purses nd build him a memoal archway. The contruction of the archay was mandated by he emperor, so local fficials could not but o accordingly. Under hese circumstances, reat pains were taken building the archay, from choosing the te to the selection of aterials and masons.

Ancient Houses — A Hallmark of Anhui Architecture

Walking 100 metres up Jiefang Street, I found myself the famous Doushan Street. The street, whose flagged rface is inlaid with pebbles at both edges, is flanked by ll buildings whose rooftops form a magnificent zigzag yline. All the buildings are fashioned in the typical nhui style of architecture, and each has a small courtrd, a circular corridor and a flower-bedecked lobby, all acefully laid out. The exquisite carvings on the bricks hich form portal arches, and colourfully painted beams d ceilings are all true to an artistic style that dates back the Qing Dynasty. Tourism is thriving, so the inhabitts of Doushan Street make it a point to keep their

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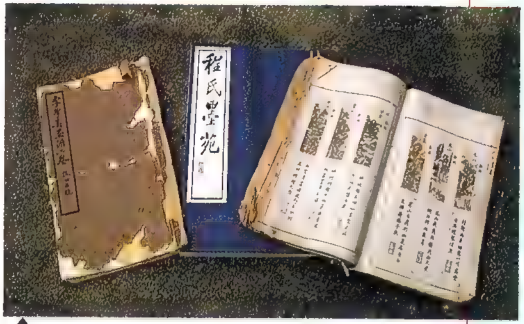
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1. A mixture of pine soot and glue is being worked into ink sticks.
2. Under the influence of the Xin'an School of traditional Chinese painting, ink slabs made in Shexian County are distinguished by their unique designs.
3. Ink sticks in the Huizhou style fall into two categories: those for practical use, and those to be kept as objets d'art (by Chan Yat Nin).
4. Cheng Junfang was a representative of ink stick makers in Shexian County during the Ming Dynasty. Here is a collection of books on Cheng's technique.
5. An accomplished Shexian-style ink slab maker at work (by Chan Yat Nin)
6. A Qing-dynasty mould for the making of decorative ink sticks

FAMOUS HUIZHOU INK STICKS AND SLABS

As if to match its fame as home to the numerous scholars who had passed the nation's supreme imperial examinations, Huizhou Prefecture produced "The Four Treasures of the Study" — writing brushes, ink sticks, ink slabs and paper. The prefecture was best known for its ink sticks and ink slabs.

It is believed that ink sticks originated in the north of China. In the late Tang Dynasty, two famous ink stick makers, Xi Chao and his son Xi Ting, fled their war-torn home in the Yellow River basin and went south to eke out a living. Impressed by the ancient pine trees and clean water in Shexian, they settled down and re-established their old business. Before long they invented a new kind of ink stick that, as the saying goes, "is smooth and rich of texture and, when mixed with water and ground into a liquid that smells sweet, creates a tone that looks as black as lacquer and will not tarnish for many years to come". The ink sticks invented by the Xis soon earned Huizhou a reputation that has lasted to this day.

The ink slabs produced in Shexian County date back to before the Tang Dynasty; by the Song Dynasty, artisans in Shexian had already produced a rich crop of fine ink slabs. In the post-Ming Dynasty years, under the influence of the Huizhou style of sculpture and the Xin'an School of traditional Chinese painting, ink slab designers in Shexian County gradually evolved a style of their own.

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houses tidy and clean. They say hello to the casual tourists and then return to whatever business they were about. More often than not they are seen offering a stool and a cup of tea to the foot-sore visitor and striking up a conversation with him. A visit to the street is such a heart-warming experience that it feels like returning to the midst of friends after a long journey.

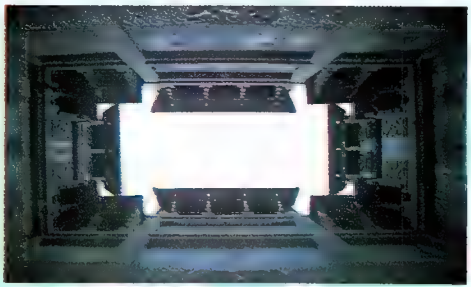
Leaving Doushan Street, I walked to the one-kilometre-long Yuliang Street on the bank of the Lianjiang River. This was where Huizhou merchants in ancient times bade farewell to loved ones before embarking on journeys to Hangzhou or Nanjing. In those days the street was bustling with activity, with all its inns thronged with travellers. Today the street looks exactly as it did during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Shops, doors fixed with retractable planks and arcades — everything remains the same. Art students come in droves to draw pictures. At the eastern end of the street stands the Yuliang Dam. Built during the Song Dynasty (960-1279) with huge stone blocks held together with stone tenons, the dam, 50-60 metres wide, with three sluice gates, has withstood numerous floods without being breached. At the foot of the dam the local people wash their laundry and vegetables. The top of the dam offers a panoramic view of Yuliang Street, whose ancient houses are silhouetted against the glistening water, inducing a simple and austere calm.

Origin of Renowned Anhui Ink Sticks

Near Yuliang Street, I dropped in on Shexian County's well-known Laohukai Ink Stick Factory. A whiff of a heady fragrance greeted me as I stepped into the workshop, where kilns are arranged in rows in the middle, and whose side walls are lined with the operators' desks. To make ink sticks, soot is first collected from the kilns and ground with a solution of glue or gums. Then the mixture is beaten and kneaded repeatedly, moulded into shapely sticks and allowed to dry. In the workshop I watched a worker take a piece of dough-like mixture of soot and glue out of the kiln in

SHENXIAN EXCELS IN ANCIENT ARCHWAYS

It is no exaggeration to say that the stone archways in Shexian County are one of the wonders of China. There are good reasons for this. First, their sheer numbers. Having weathered numerous natural calamities and social turmoils over hundreds of years, 80 of them miraculously remain intact today. Nowhere else in China has amassed so many stone archways in such a relatively small place. Secondly, their distinctive styles. Most of the archways in Shexian County spring up in gigantic and stately dimensions, yet, through the cunning labour of the chisel, there is no lack of exquisite refinement and delicacy of touch, whether in the sculpted patterns of flowers and grass or images of beasts. Unusual structure and layout are yet another hallmark of the style of the stone archways in Shexian County. The eight-legged oblong archway in memory of Xu Guo is one of a kind; no other archways in China can rival the titanic scale and transcendent excellence of the "Row of Seven" in Tangyue Village.



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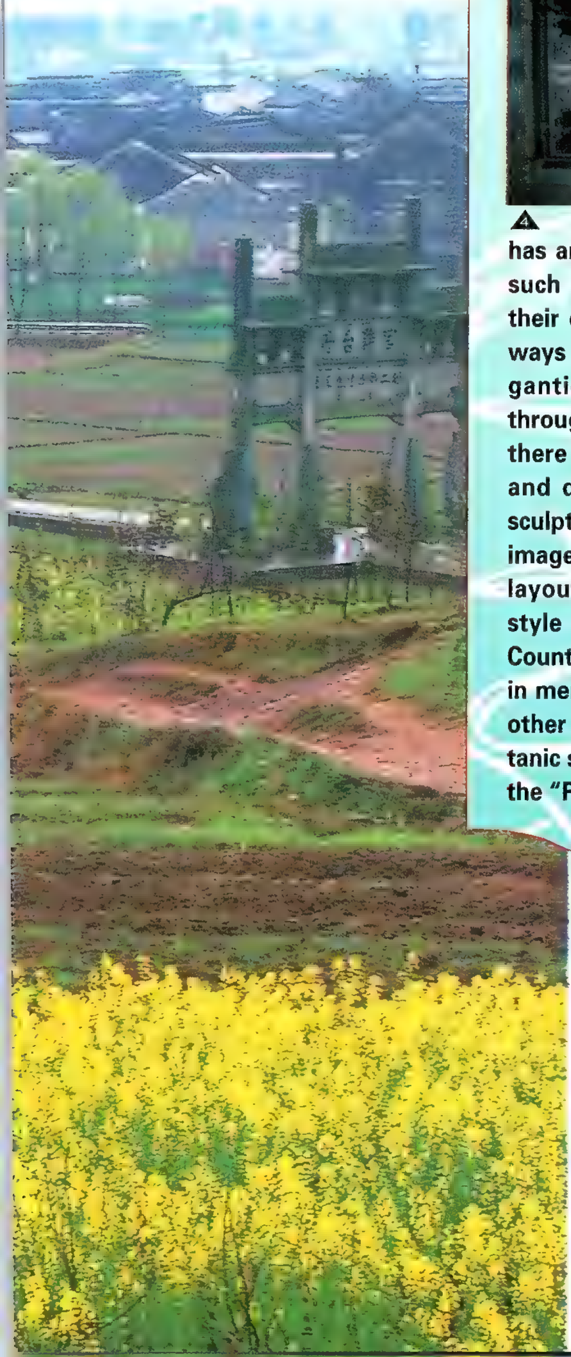

1. The Minglun Hall is an outstanding example of old Huizhou architecture.
2. The Yuliang Dam, made of stone blocks linked by stone tenons, has withstood many floods over the centuries (by Chan Yat Nin).
3. The stone archways, residences and clansmen's memorial temples in Tangyue Village are regarded as the quintessence of ancient architecture in the Shexian style.
4. One of a kind in China: the Stone Archway of Xu Guo, which is a masterpiece of imitation carpentry.

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1. The Museum of Ming-Dy
nasty houses nestles at th
foot of Zixia Peak.
2. The inner courtyard of
typical Huizhou residence
often enclosed on four side
by wooden-framed houses.
3. In this ancient villag
houses are encircled by ta
walls with zigzag gable
standing high above th
rooftops (by Chan Yat Nin).

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which it had been kept warm and soft. Using a square hammer he beat the "dough" this way and that on a block of graphite until the soot was thoroughly mixed with glue. The mixture, after being sufficiently kneaded, is divided into several parts which, after being weighed, are returned to the kiln. Only one piece of the mixture is left on the table and given another thorough kneading before being fed into a mould made of graphite, where it is left to dry. I picked up a dried stick about three inches long. It was as light as charcoal, and produced a mild fragrance. On the front, the ink stick is inscribed with the four Chinese characters which read, "Made of soot extracted from pine trees from Mount Huangshan". The inscription on the other side says that the stick is made in an Huizhou ink stick factory. The batch of ink sticks I saw were marked by their simple design — I was told they were to be exported to Japan.

The Production Site of Shexian Ink Slabs

Shexian County produces one of China's four major brands of ink slabs. Virtually no visitors leave Shexian without buying an ink slab as a souvenir or as a gift for riends at home. During my visit to the county's ink slab actory, a worker told me that only by using the right nethod can an ink slab of the best quality be chosen. After an ink slab of the right shape and design is picked, a few drops of water are splashed on its surface. Then he surface of the slab is rubbed with a finger until glisening particles of carborundum are seen on the wet pot. If the particles are in high density, this shows that he slab will work effectively when an ink stick is ground on it. Next, hold the slab on the tips of the five ingers of one hand and test it with the flick of a finger — he slab is of high quality if you hear a metallic sound. inally, touch the surface of the slab with a finger. If an mpression of sweat is left where it is touched, and if the urface feels as smooth as the face of an infant, this hows that first, the slab won't cause too much friction when a writing brush is applied to it and, second, it is mooth, but not to the extent of being too slippery to old the ink. The best raw material is a kind of stone which takes more than a billion years to form; because ie amount of such stone is diminishing, the value of hexian ink slabs is rising steadily.

When night fell I treated myself to a local delicacy: eep fried beancurd. As I continued my strolling about ie streets, I saw that the walls of many houses were ecorated with works of calligraphy and traditional hinese painting. Calligraphy and painting are a local enthusiasm, and a dozen or so shops in the county seat were doing roaring business in mounting calligraphic works and paintings. In one such shop on Shengli Road, I met the owner, Ling Hua, who was restoring the painting *Towering Pagoda and Tranquil Clouds and River* by the contemporary Chinese painter Huang Binhong, a native of Shexian County. Ling Hua is a long-time picture mounting specialist as well as a member of the local Xin'an School Painters' Society. I was told that Ling was only one of many local citizens who collected works of famous traditional Chinese painters.

Seven Archways in a Row

Driving to Tangyue Village the next morning I saw the seven stone archways standing in a row at the entrance to the village. Built by a clan surnamed Bao over a period which spanned the Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties, these archways are a unique cultural landmark and each is the subject of a moving story. By the side of the archways stand two religious ceremonial halls, one for men and the other for women. The women's hall was a rarity in ancient times; inside, artists from the Shexian County Tourist Bureau and the Changchun Film Studio were busy making waxworks. Unfortunately, because of a lack of historical research, the figures and their costumes appeared to be mere copies from movies. I was told that the men's hall would soon be converted into a museum in which the rise and fall of merchants from Huizhou is depicted through a wealth of objects, pictures and documents.

The houses of Chengkan Village are scattered about the wooded banks of a river against the backdrop of Huangshan Mountain. Two bridges topped with little gazebos serve as entrances to the village; they were built during the Ming Dynasty in the typical Huizhou style of architecture. More than five hundred families live in this village, and most of them are surnamed Luo. A narrow flagged path conducted me into the village, where a pa-

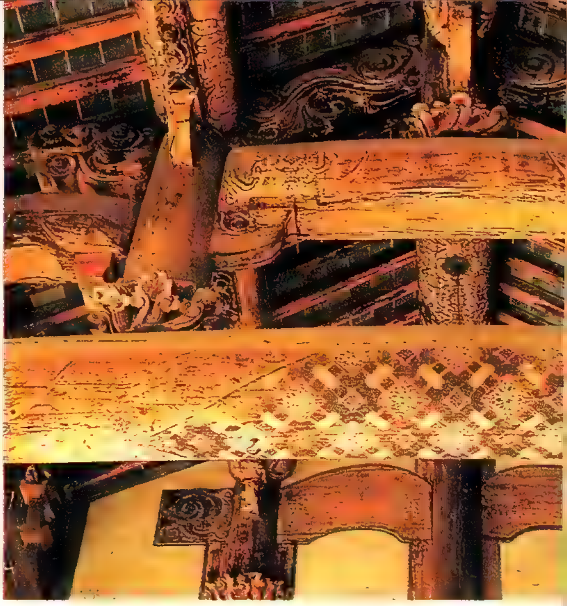
4

5

4. The women's memorial hall in Tangyue Village has been converted into a museum of life-size waxworks of famous women in Chinese history.

5. Huang Binhong, a painter and representative of the Huangshan style of traditional Chinese painting, was a native of Shexian County.

1



2

vilion can be seen wherever two lanes cross. The village boasts some 30 Ming-dynasty and 100 Qing-dynasty houses, but none of them are more renowned than the Baolun Chamber, the memorial hall for members of the Luo family. Built during the Jiajing Reign (1522-1566) of the Ming Dynasty, the structure is a combination of three rows of houses and two courtyards which sprawl over an area of 700 square metres. The main hall, the centrepiece of the entire complex, stands in the third row. Behind the sumptuous style and transcendent excellence in engineering work, however, was the sad fact that the Huizhou merchants never gained the political privileges they hankered for, despite their unmatched financial success. Within the limited space imposed on them by imperial rule, the best they could do was to employ the best artisans and devise what shapes, forms and artifices they could at any costs — for the purpose of catching the public eye and immortalizing themselves. The result was a rich crop of residences built in the Huizhou style, which stood in striking contrast to the majestic mansions built exclusively for high officials. Time and the elements had taken a heavy toll on the Baolun Chamber, in disrepair for a long time. Only recently has it been given a complete face-lift and opened to curious viewers from home and abroad.

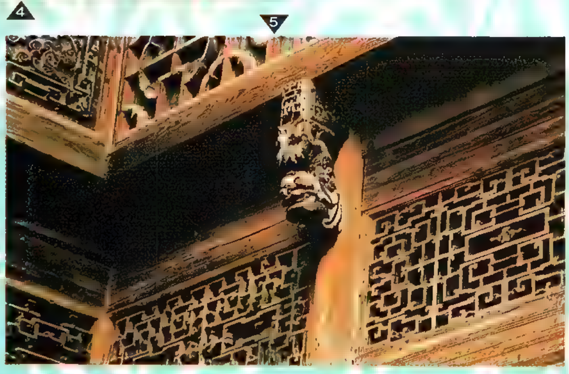
Translated by Ling Yuan

1. The Baolun Chamber at Chengkan Village was built during the Ming Dynasty some five centuries ago.
2. The main beams of the Baolun Chamber are engraved and painted with complex and luminous patterns.
3. Some 130 houses in this village were built during the Ming or Qing dynasties.
4. A mountain stream runs gurgling through a village (by Chan Yat Nin).
5. Ancient structures in the Huizhou style are noted for their elaborate wood sculptures and engravings (by Chan Yat Nin).

ANCIENT ARCHITECTURE IN HUIZHOU

After comparing different types of Ming-dynasty structures, members of the Research Institute of Ancient Architecture in Shexian County have recently reconstructed a collection of typical residential houses at the foot of the Zixia Peak, the "Museum of Ming-Dynasty Houses".

This museum provides an overview of the styles and salient features of ancient structures in Huizhou Prefecture. The front gates of most ancient buildings in Huizhou face southwest, and courtyards are either square or oblong. All rooms are enclosed behind tall walls whose gables, called "Horse-head Gables", are higher than the roofs, in the shape of steps. The front gate usually opens into a narrow courtyard designed to let in the light; a second gate leads to the inner part of the residence, usually a quadrangle of two-storey wooden houses. The framework of the houses are of the tenon-and-mortise type. Houses for rich families and clansmen's memorial halls often feature horizontal beams made of huge logs which are elaborately carved and lavishly decorated. Windows are, as a rule, latticed with wood-carving tracery in dazzling patterns or carry panels with bas-relief engravings of plum, orchid, bamboo and chrysanthemum — traditional motifs in Chinese literature. Walls and portals are decorated with stone blocks or bricks wrought in bas-relief or otherwise engraved, circular carving or openwork.



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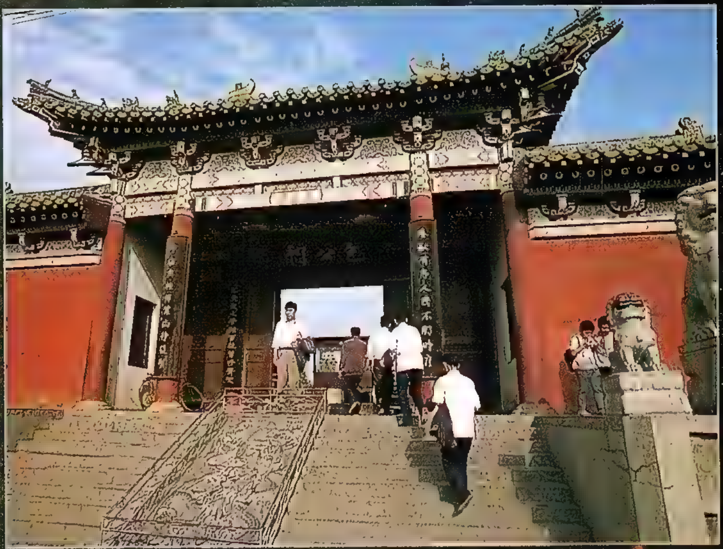
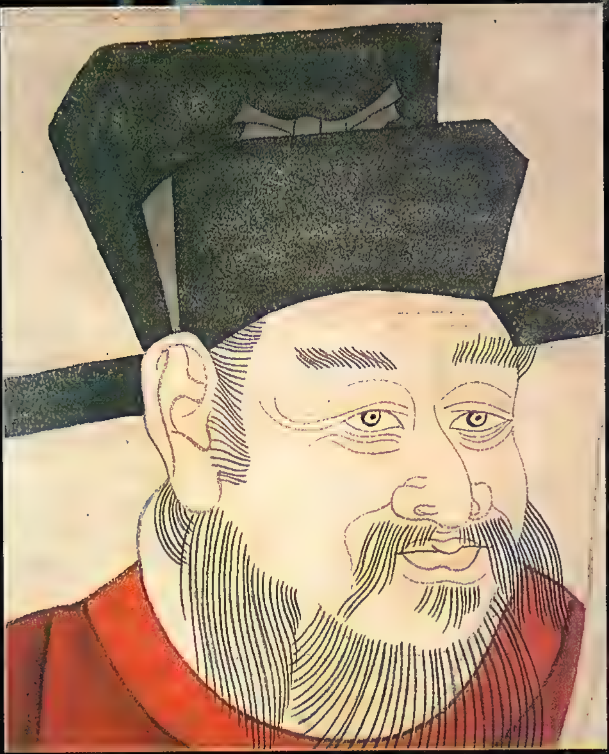
Searching for Lord Bao

Bao Zheng (999-1062), born in Baocun Village in the eastern suburbs of Hefei City, Anhui Province, was a statesman in the middle period of the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), and is famous for being the most honest and upright official in Chinese history.

In 1027, Bao Zheng began his career as an official, and served as local prefect in many places. His political views benefitted both the state and the people. He was even-handed and moral, even when it came to the mistakes of the emperor, the lawlessness of the nobles and the evil doings of his own relatives and friends. He sympathized with the people for their hard and bitter lives, and regarded it as his responsibility to offer help. For this, the people in China all call him Lord Bao (known to Westerners as Judge Pao) or Bao, the Upright Official. There are many stories and operas about how he enforced the law fairly and punished villians to satisfy the people.



The Memorial Temple of Lord Bao, built in 1986, sits on the west bank of the Lake of Lord Bao in Kaifeng City.



Accoading to historical records, Lord Bao was a handsome man with a fair complexion. The dark-faced Lord Bao seen on stage was the invention of make-up artists after the Yuan and Ming dynasties in order to symbolize his upright and impartial personality (by Ling Jun).

From midnight to dawn on the first and 15th day of every lunar month, pilgrims and worshippers come in streams to gather in front of the Memorial Temple of Lord Bao where they burn incense and pay homage to the upright official.

Worshipping Lord Bao at the "Kaifeng Prefectural Office"

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY SHI BAO XIU

Lord Bao is well-known amongst people not only on the mainland of China, but in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, as well as among overseas Chinese in other countries. Everybody knows that Lord Bao loved the people, was upright and impartial and enforced the law strictly. He was wonderfully accurate in his judgements, and legend says that he had the ability to handle the cases of the world by day and solve the mysteries of the underworld by night. Passed on from mouth to mouth for many generations and described by writers in their novels for centuries, the upright official of the Northern Song Dynasty became a "super-star" statesman who seemed half man and half god.

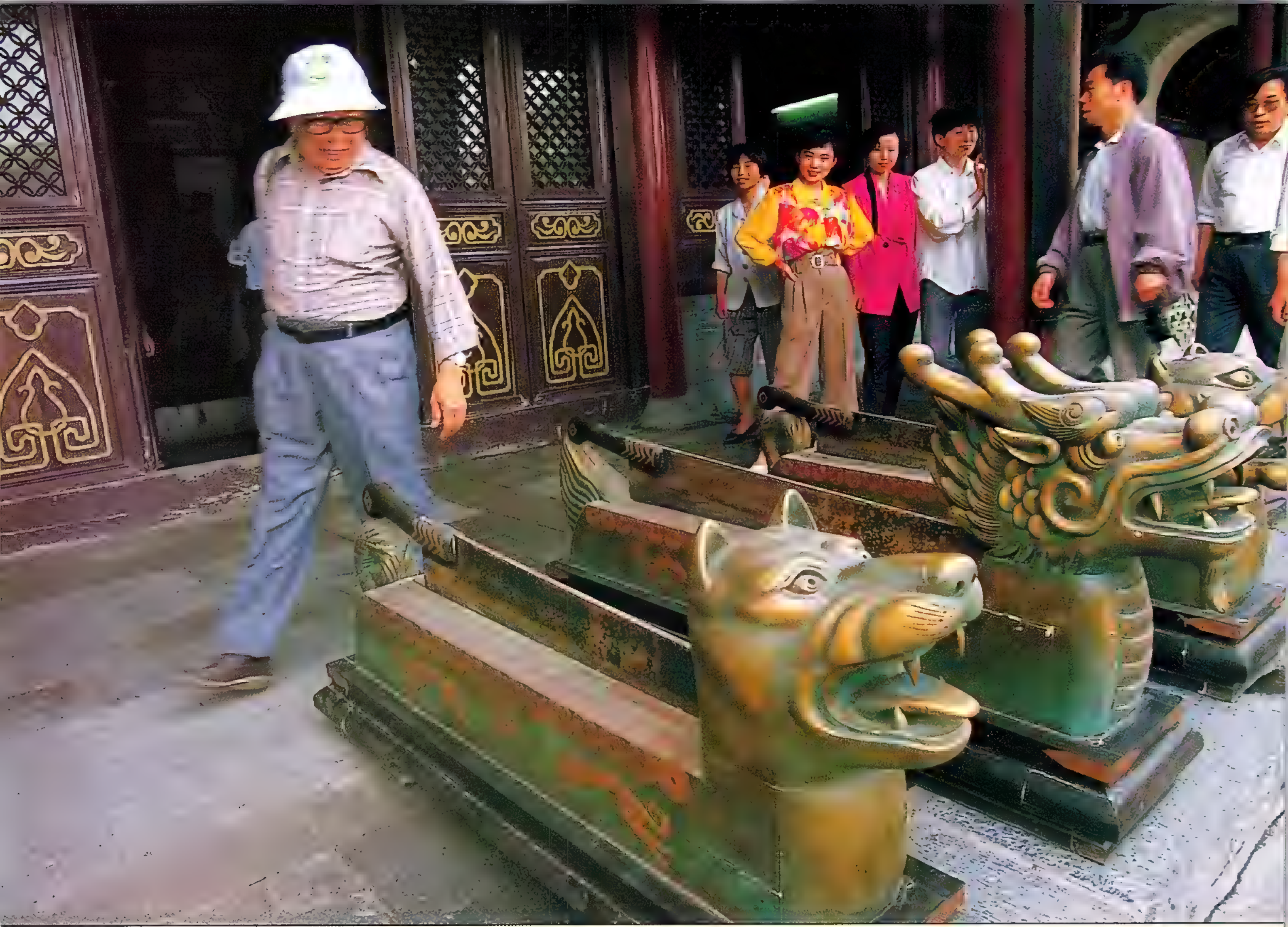
New Memorial Temple by Lord Bao Lake

Lord Bao was a real person. In the early summer this year we set off to trace the spirit of Lord Bao, and arrived at Kaifeng, the capital of the Northern Song Dynasty. Among residential houses and by the clear waters of Lord Bao Lake, we found the Memorial Temple of Lord Bao.

Upon entering the temple, we saw that all the pavilions, verandas and halls were obviously newly built. Where was the original prefectural office of Kaifeng? Mr. Liu, chief of the administrative office, explained that the Northern Song Dynasty was 900 years ago, and since then, the Yellow River had flooded many times and its silt had completely buried the old city of Kaifeng a dozen metres under the ground. A few years ago, the citizens of the city appealed for a Lord Bao memorial hall and a gold-plated statue of Lord Bao to commemorate his 20 years of service in Kaifeng.

In the front hall, we saw a stone tablet with the inscription "Mount Qi" in Lord Bao's calligraphy, written during his visit to the mountain when he was the prefect of Chizhou. There is another tablet with the words "The Record of the Inscription of Kaifeng Prefectural Office".

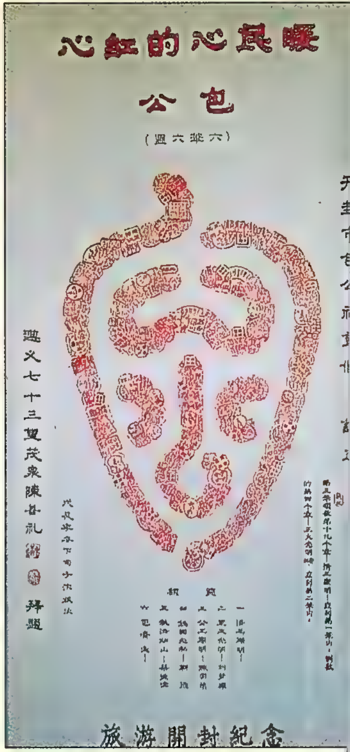
In fact, this tablet is only a replica, and the real one is housed in a small side-courtyard in the Kaifeng Museum of History. Its front is inscribed with a list of the 183 prefects of Kaifeng in chronological order. Every visitor to the museum tries to find the name of Bao Zheng on the tablet, but no one is able to locate it. During his period in Kaifeng as prefect, Lord Bao redressed many false and wrong cases, reformed or abolished some irrational rules and regulations, and did a lot of good things for the people. He was, therefore, loved by the people. For many years, visitors to the museum would touch the name of Bao Zheng. Year after year, the name of Bao Zheng became worn out. According to a historical record, as early as in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), the tablet had already become "deeply worn by fingers".



The reproductions of the dragon-head, tiger-head and dog-head copper guillotines in the Memorial Temple of Lord Bao in Kaifeng

Everyday there are many visitors from other provinces paying their respects to the statue of Lord Bao.

When the renovation of the Memori Temple of Lord Bao was completed, visitor from Guizou immediately e graved seals with the inscriptions fro all the boards and tablets. Then printed two characters of the wo "Lord" with the seals to form a r heart to present to the temple.



暖民心的紅心

包公

遵义七十三叟茂泉陳[illegible]拜題

旅游開封紀念

The Dragon-Head, Tiger-Head and Dog-Head Copper Guillotines

Entering the east side-hall, we immediately saw a statue of Lord Bao, staring angrily, hat in hand and mouth wide open, as if shouting at somebody. By him there is a scholar in official dress held by a few strong men. Beside him is an eunuch in a yellow robe holding up an mperial edict. Away from the group, there stands a woman in plain and simple clothes, looking sad and gloomy. This is a scene from an opera describing Lord Bao ordering the execution of Chen Shimei.

Chen Shimei, a poor scholar, came to the capital for the imperial examination, leaving his wife and children at home. He came first in the examination and became "Number One Scholar". He then married the daughter of the emperor. To secure his position and wealth, he ent people to kill his original wife Qin Xianglian and children. Qin Xianglian appealed to Lord Bao, who, despite the interference of he mother and sister of the emperor, had Chen Shimei executed.

In front of Lord Bao there tood three copper guillotines. They are replicas of the dragon-ead, tiger-head and dog-head uillotines as described in novels. Visitors are fascinated by these uillotines, instruments of capital unishment supposedly used 00 years ago. If you lift the andle, the blade emerges, littering coldly in the light. They are made of real copper.

Fanlou Palace where stories of Lord Bao are displayed

At 10 o'clock on the night of the 15th day of the fifth month of the unar calendar (normally in late June), we returned to the temple. tanding in front of it, we looked up into the dark sky where the full moon was hanging. At Lord Bao Lake, pilgrims and worshippers were arriving in groups. At a quarter past twelve everyone began to burn incense, golden foils and yellow paper in front of the temple, and the ashes rose high and flew everywhere. Most of the pilgrims and worshippers were elderly and middle-aged women. Some were even carrying luggage and looked as if they had come from far away. In the light of the fire, we saw them bowing and kowtowing piously at the temple gate.

We were told by the watchman of the temple that on the first day and the 15th day of each month of the lunar calendar people came to the temple to worship the spirit of Lord Bao. From midnight till dawn, pilgrims and worshippers came and went in streams.

We also heard some interesting stories at the temple.

One day, three old women arrived from far away. Upon entering the temple, they immediately looked for the drum to beat and to cry out for justice. They also asked to see the prefect, so he could take action against some scoundrels in their home village. They said they had been told that the Kaifeng Prefectural Government Office had been rebuilt. Even if Lord Bao was no longer there, they thought this was still the best place to air their grievances. The watchman talked till his jaws ached, trying to persuade them to go home.

Last year, three letters addressed to Lord Bao were sent to the administrative office of the Memorial Temple of Lord Bao. The postman said with a smile: "We have to deliver these letters to you, because 'Lord Bao' lives only in your temple now." The letters were opened, and they were written complaints asking Lord Bao to redress injustices. Lord Bao's influence is still remarkably strong despite being dead for 900 years.

This elderly woman has walked all the way here from Chenzhou (Huaiyang). After offering incense in worship, she is waiting for the opening of the gate to see "Lord Bao".

Visiting Lord Bao's Hometown

PHOTOS BY LING JUN & WANG HUAICHENG • ARTICLE BY SHU YUANCHENG

After watching the TV series *Lord Bao*, we became very interested in this upright official. During our trip to Huangshan Mountain, we made a detour to Hefei City, also in Anhui Province, where we visited the hometown of Lord Bao and several historical sites.

Traces of the Past Found at Bao's Hometown

Accompanied by Bao Zunliang, a member of the 34th generation of descendants of Lord Bao, we drove for 40 kilometres on the Hefei-Nanjing Expressway and stopped in front of a grey brick building. This was the Memorial Temple of Lord Bao.

This temple, built in the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), was very simple and looked old and shabby due to the lack of proper maintenance. Its walls were cracked and moss was growing everywhere. According to Bao Zunliang, the temple was a protected cultural relic, but it was neglected and even used as a cattle pen a few years earlier, because of a shortage of funds for protection. The gate of the temple was built a few years earlier with funds donated by several families who were descendants of Lord Bao. There was a lock on the gate, and the key was kept by Bao Xianzhu, village head and one of the 35th generation of descendants of Lord Bao.

Liufang Pavilion in the Memorial Temple of Lord Bao in Hefei, where it is said Lord Bao once studied in his teens.

It was relatively empty in the temple hall. A portrait of Lord Bao hung in the centre of the northern wall. This was the work of a local painter in the village. In front of the portrait was an altar made o bricks, on which were a few books, a bottle of wine, a writing brush and a bottle of ink. Its simplicity was dignified and impressive.

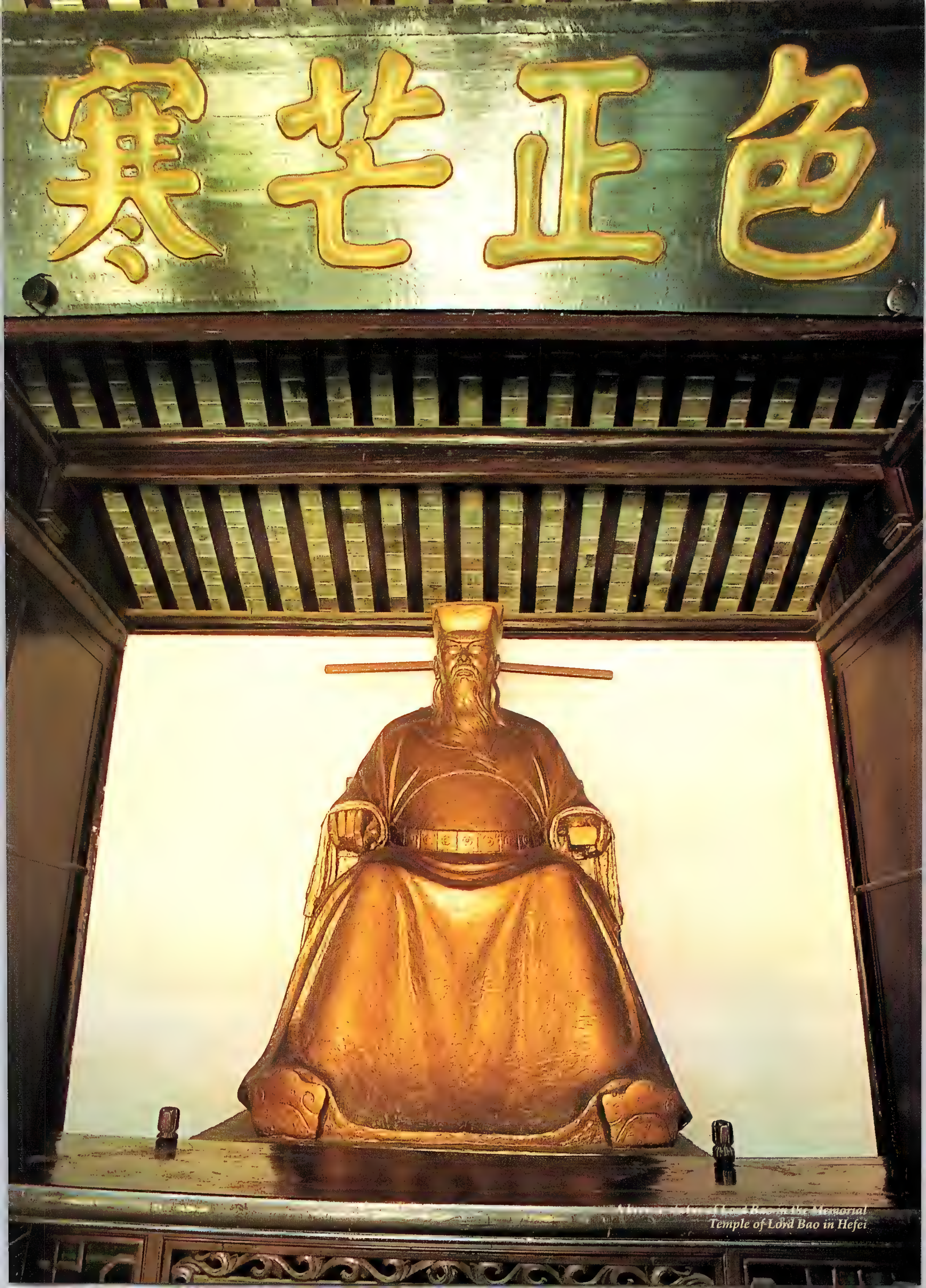
Lord Bao's hometown is quite close to Hefei, capital of Anhui Province, but it does not have any big-city atmosphere. The Hefei-Nanjing Expressway cuts the village into two, Big Bao Village and Small Ba Village. Lord Bao was born in the Small Bao Village which is about 1. kilometres from this memorial temple.

There is another Memorial Temple of Lord Bao in the city of Hefei Because of its location, it is better known than the one in Lord Bao' hometown, and pilgrims and visitors come in an endless stream. Located in the southeast of the city, the temple consists of the main buildings in the Bao River Park, and is only a few hundred metres away fron the famous stone sculpture of th Nine-headed Lion. This is wher Lord Bao studied in his youth. I was originally a small temple and was turned into an Academ of Lord Bao in the Ming Dynast (1368-1644) and finally into th Memorial Temple of Lord Bao i early Qing Dynasty.

In the main hall, three horizontal inscribed boards hang fron the beams, and the northern wa is inlaid with a black stone carving of the image of Lord Bao don during the Qing Dynasty. Th side hall houses a book of the Ba family tree which was unearthe from the tomb of Lord Bao at h

The Mausoleum of Lord Bao is next to Bao River Park (by Bai Jian).

This is the well which, according to legend, co test officials to see whether they were corrupt.



A bronze statue of Lord Bao in the Memorial Temple of Lord Bao in Hefei hometown, and on its walls are an introduction to the life of Lord Bao in both words and pictures.

To the east of the temple stands a hexagonal pavilion, in which there is an ancient well. The reliefs of dragons on the pavilion are clearly reflected in the well, like "golden dragons playing with water". Therefore, it is called Dragon Well. It was said that if any corrupt official drank the water from the well, he would have a ceaseless headache. It was a punishment from Lord Bao. Accordingly, the well is also known as Honest Well. It is said that the well was used in ancient times to test officials' performances by making them drink its water.

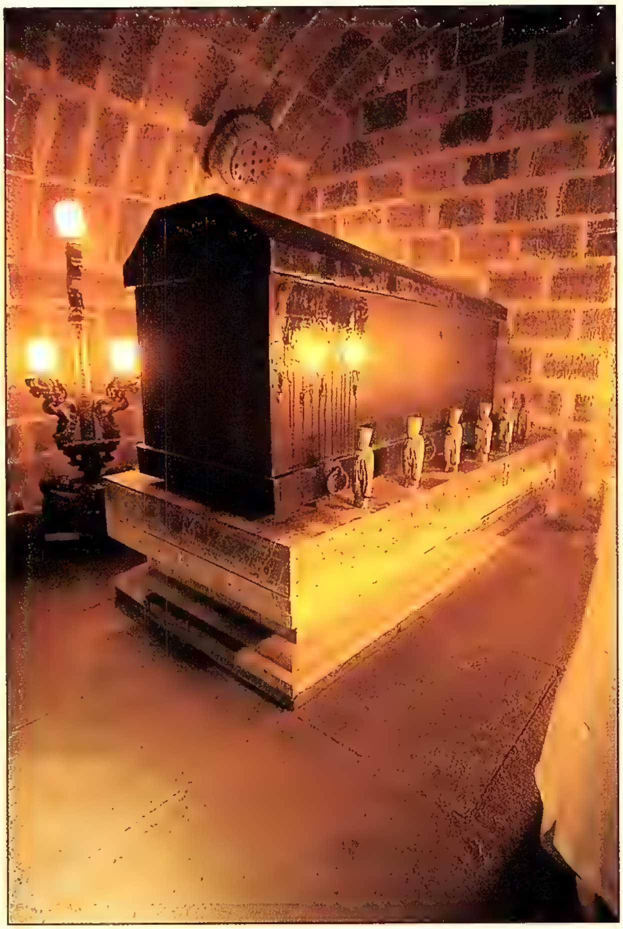
To the west of the temple and by the Bao River is the Mausoleum of Lord Bao, rebuilt in 1987.

According to historical records, Bao Zheng died of sickness in Kaifeng in the seventh year of Emperor Jiaoyou of the Song Dynasty (1062). After his death, Emperor Renzong stopped his administrative work for a day and paid his condolences personally at the Bao Mansion. He gave special permission to the son-in-law of Lord Bao to escort the coffin back to Lord Bao's hometown. His tomb was built at Gongchengli of Gongcheng Township, to the east of Hefei county town, in the ancient Luzhou Prefecture (today's Shuangxu Village, Daxing Township, Feidong County). Lord Bao was officially buried by the imperial house.

Lord Bao's New Tomb

Lord Bao's tomb had been robbed several times during the wars. In 1973, the cultural relics department excavated and rebuilt the mausoleum and

Bao Zunliang (left), one of the 34th generation of descendants of Lord Bao


The golden-lined nanmu*-wood coffin of Lord Bao*

the remains of Lord Bao were moved here and reburied. The present mausoleum was rebuilt according to the historical records and the archaeologica notes kept during the excavation — very faithful to the original.

Behind the main hall is the tomb, i solemn and tranquil surroundings. Th tomb chambers are connected by a tunnel, and inside the stone gate ther stands a tablet excavated from th original tomb. A 2.4-metre-long coffin made of *nanmu* wood with golden lines, is in the main chamber, which i now sealed with glass for protection Lord Bao's remains are in the coffin The attached grave area to the nort consists of the tomb of his wife and fou other tombs of his sons and grandsons There is a stone tablet of Lord Bao's instructions which reads, "My descendant officials, if being guilty of corruption, are not allowed to return to th family, nor are they permitted to b buried in the family grave. Those wh do not follow my instruction are not m descendants." Every word sounds ser ous and greatly impresses people.

There was a dispute between Hena and Anhui provinces about where Lor Bao's tomb is actually located. One sai that the tomb in the imperial graveyar of the Northern Song Dynasty was th real one; the other said that accordin to historical records Lord Bao's coffi was taken back to his hometown, an the bones unearthed from there we strong proofs.

It is not important where Lord Bao actually buried, however. The most im portant thing is that Lord Bao's spi lives on in the hearts of the Chines people.

Translated by Xu Mingqiang

The tomb of Lord Bao in Hefei is on the Sacred Way in the mausoleum.

There is another tomb of Lord Bao in the Imperial Mausoleum of the Nort ern Song Dynasty in Henan's Gongxian County (by Shi Bao Xiu).

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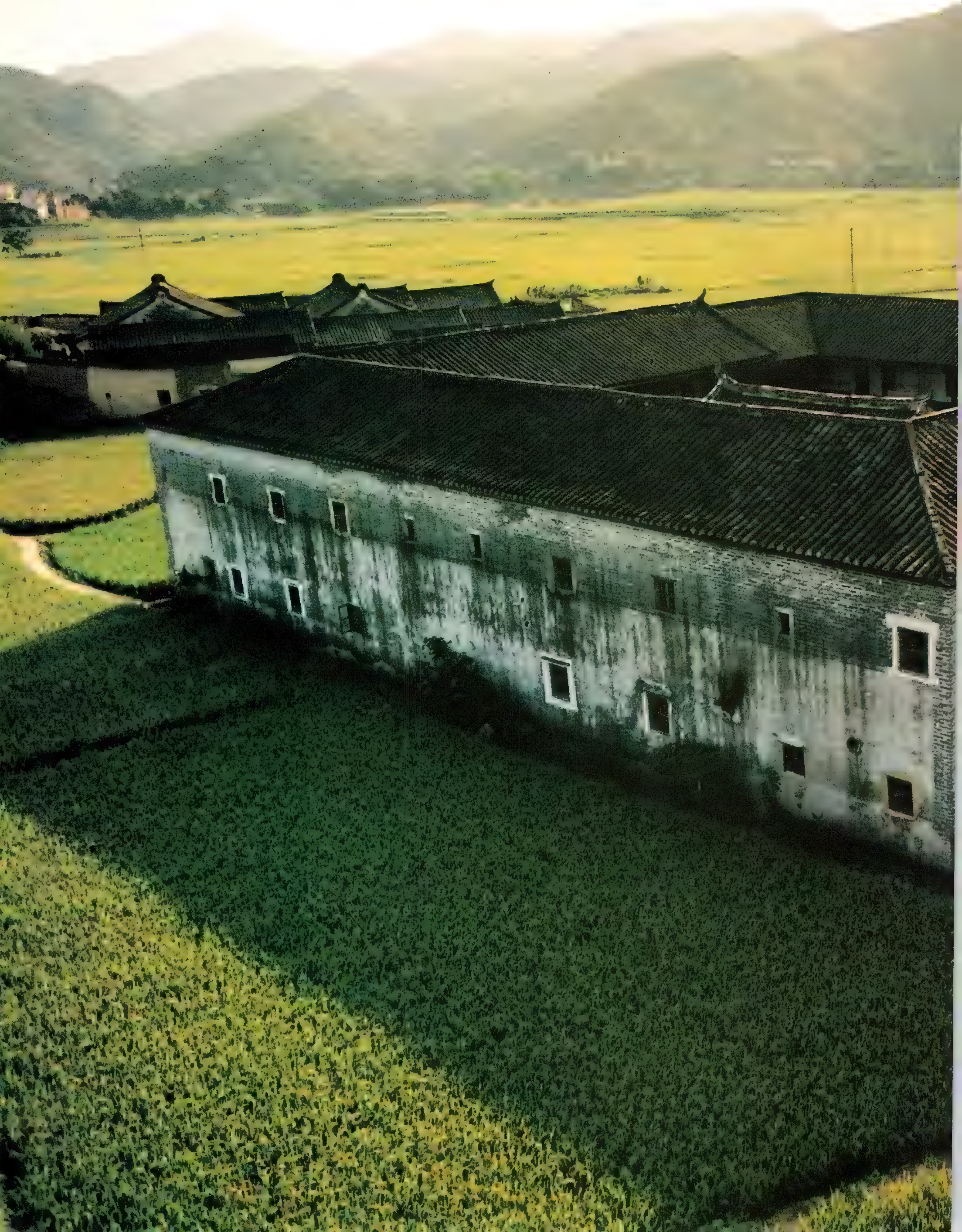
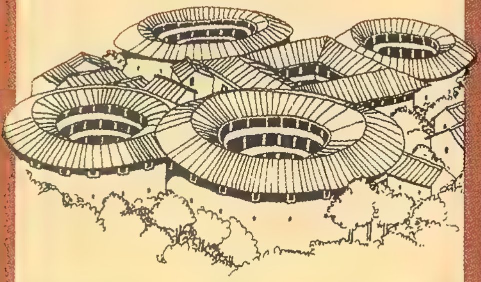
A square enclosure in the fields at the Huliaoba near Huliao Town

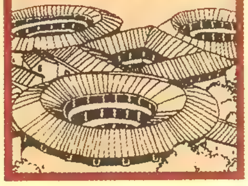


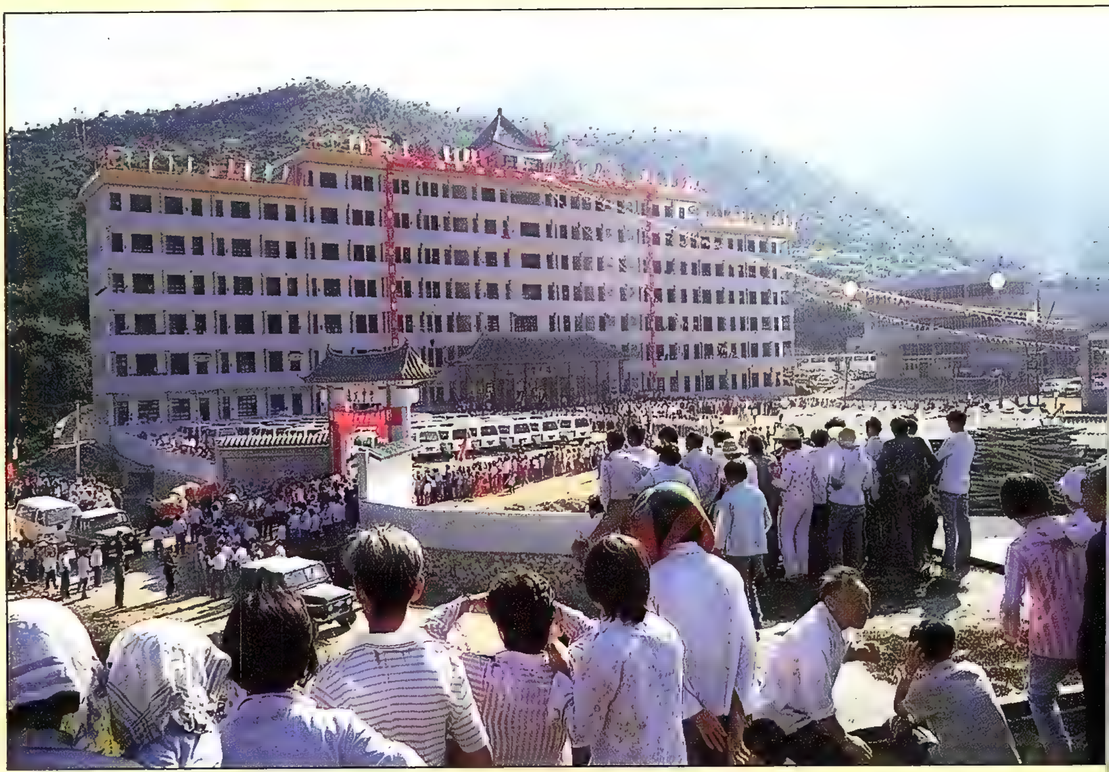
A Visit to Dabu
Hometown of the Hakka

PHOTOS BY
DU YOUNONG
ARTICLE BY AN GE &
HU FANG



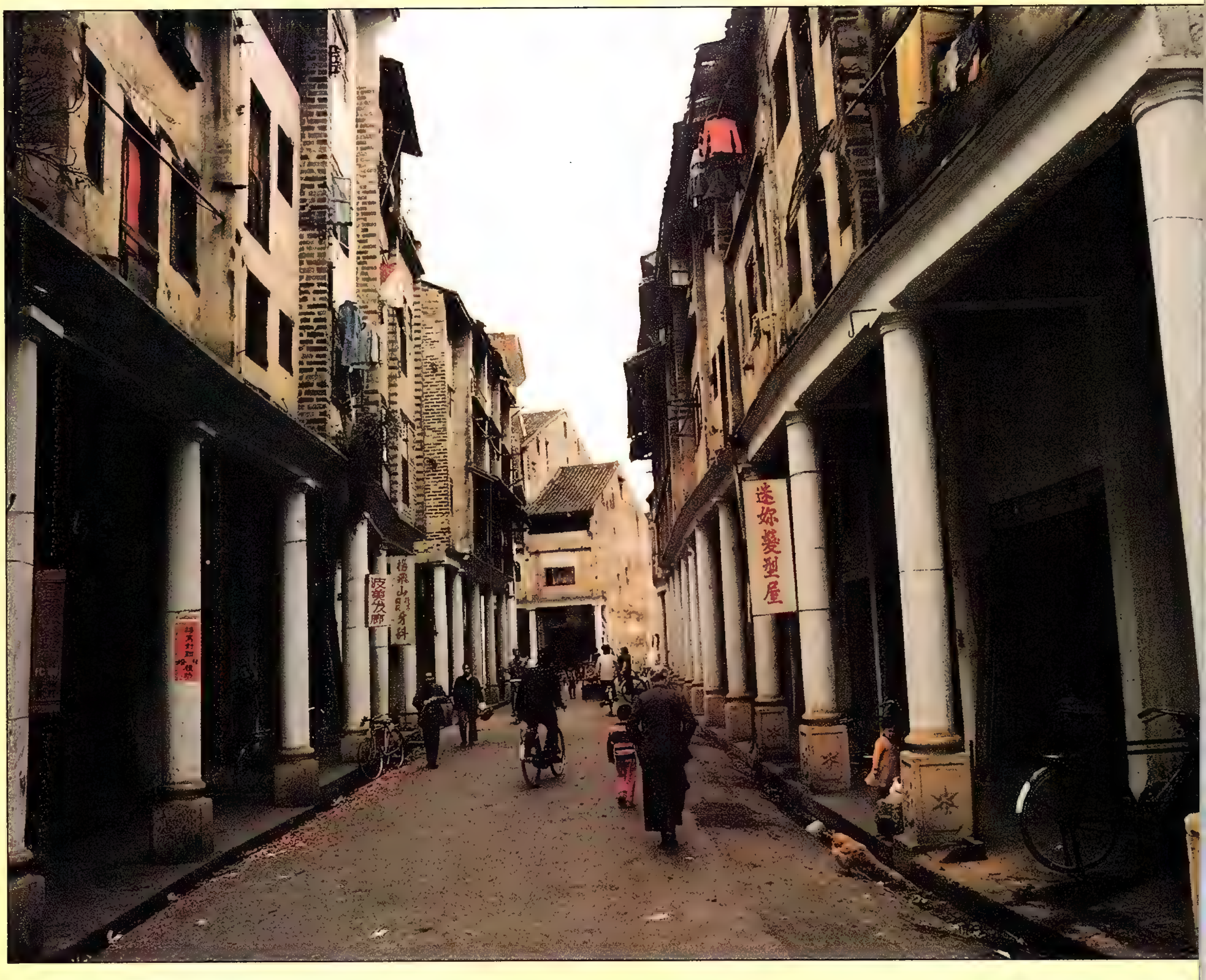
大埔 Dabu

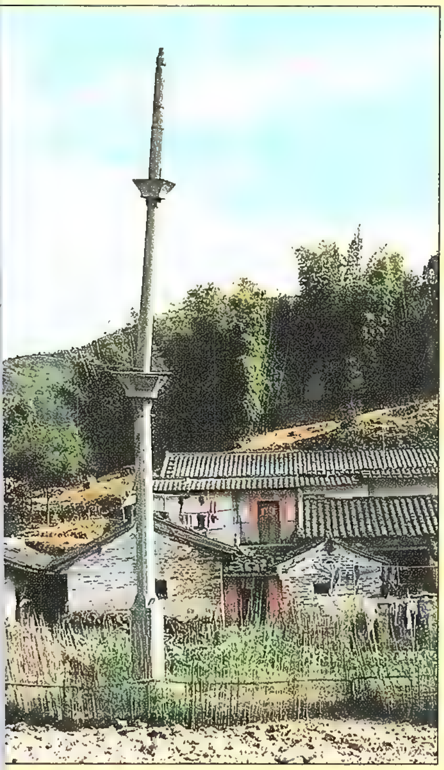




▶ Jinguang Middle School was built with donations from overseas and Hong Kong and Macau residents who claim Dabu as their ancestral home (by Peng Zhen Ge).

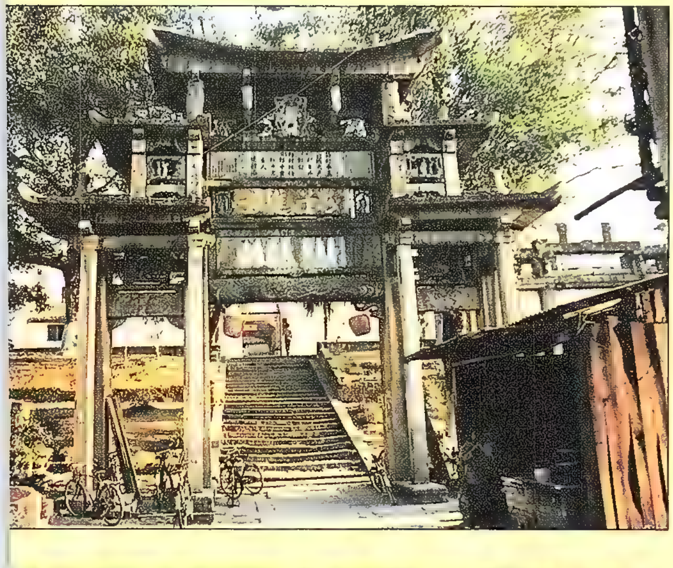
▼ Chayang, the old county seat of Dabu, was once a busy commercial town on important trade routes in eastern Guangdong.

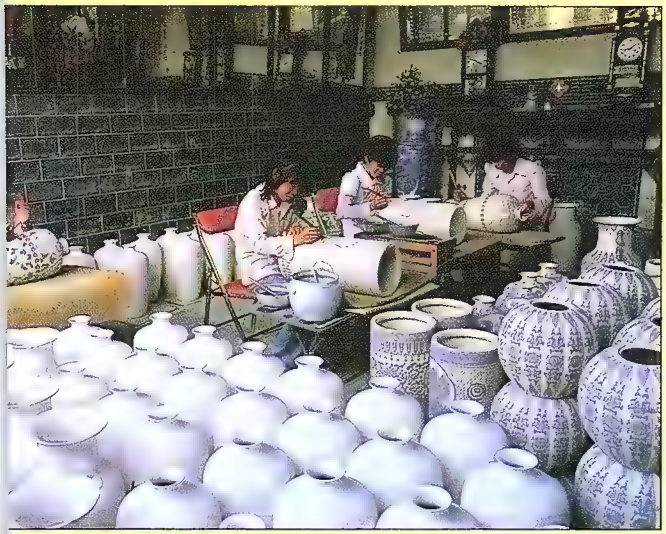




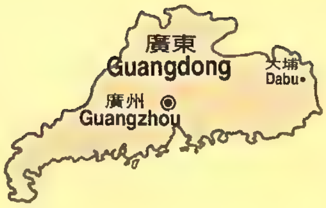
◀ *The stone flagpole in front of this mountain village at Taoyuan Township was for hoisting a large flag bearing the family name of the villagers.*

▼ *The Father and Son Jinshi Archway was built in commemoration of a father and his son in Chayang Town who were both successful in higher imperial examinations.*





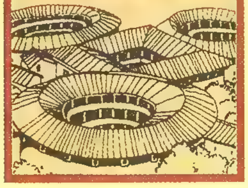
obei is a porcelain-producing town with many villagers in the vicinity
olved in this industry. The sitting-room of this new house is also be-
used as a workshop (by Peng Zhen Ge).

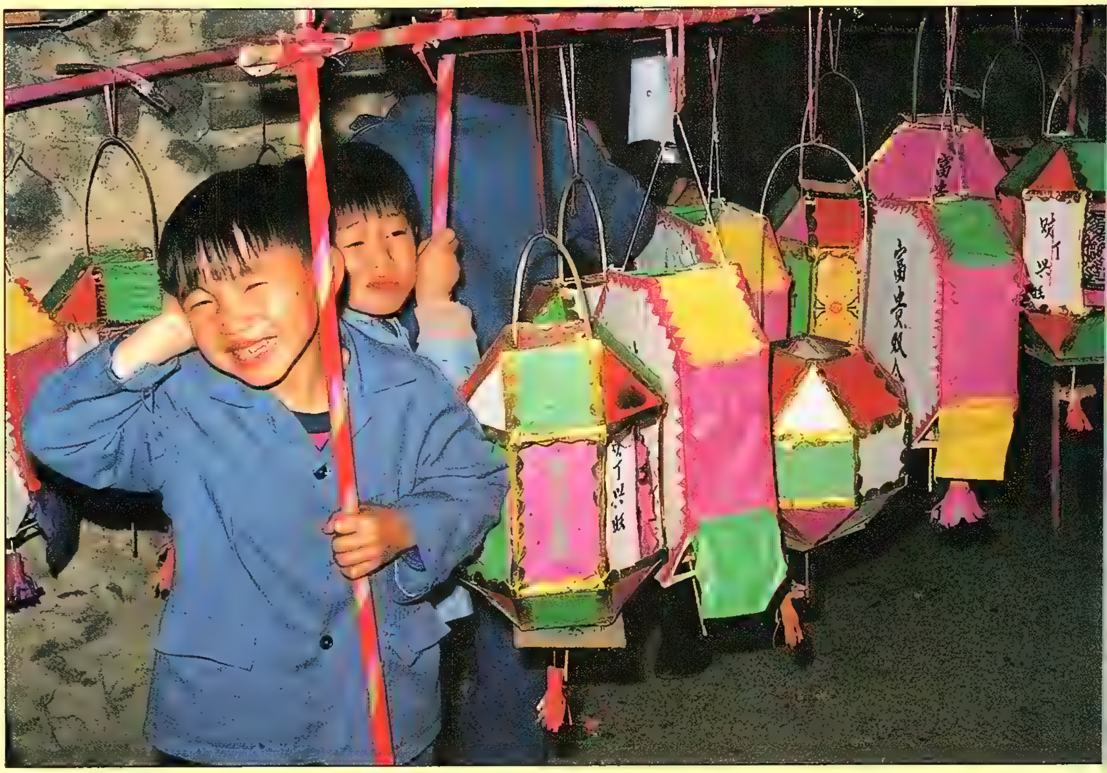


Located in the remote mountains of eastern Guangdong Province, Dabu County is mainly populated by the Hakka people, a group characterised by their hardiness and aptitude for hard work.

Towards the end of the Western Jin Dynasty (265-316), some Han Chinese living in the valley of the Huanghe (Yellow River) crossed the river and moved south, driven by the desire to escape the constant wars in the region. Then, in the late Tang Dynasty (618-907) and the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), further waves of these Han Chinese migrated their way south into Jiangxi, Fujian and the northwestern parts of Guangdong. The people already living in the areas called the newcomers *Hakka* — the word in Mandarin is *kejia* (guest family) — to differentiate them. As time passed, they accepted this name and began to use it themselves. Their feelings of having a separate identity were bolstered by their distinctive dialect, which experts have related to 10th century speech. There are currently about four million Hakka living on the Chinese mainland, and many more overseas.

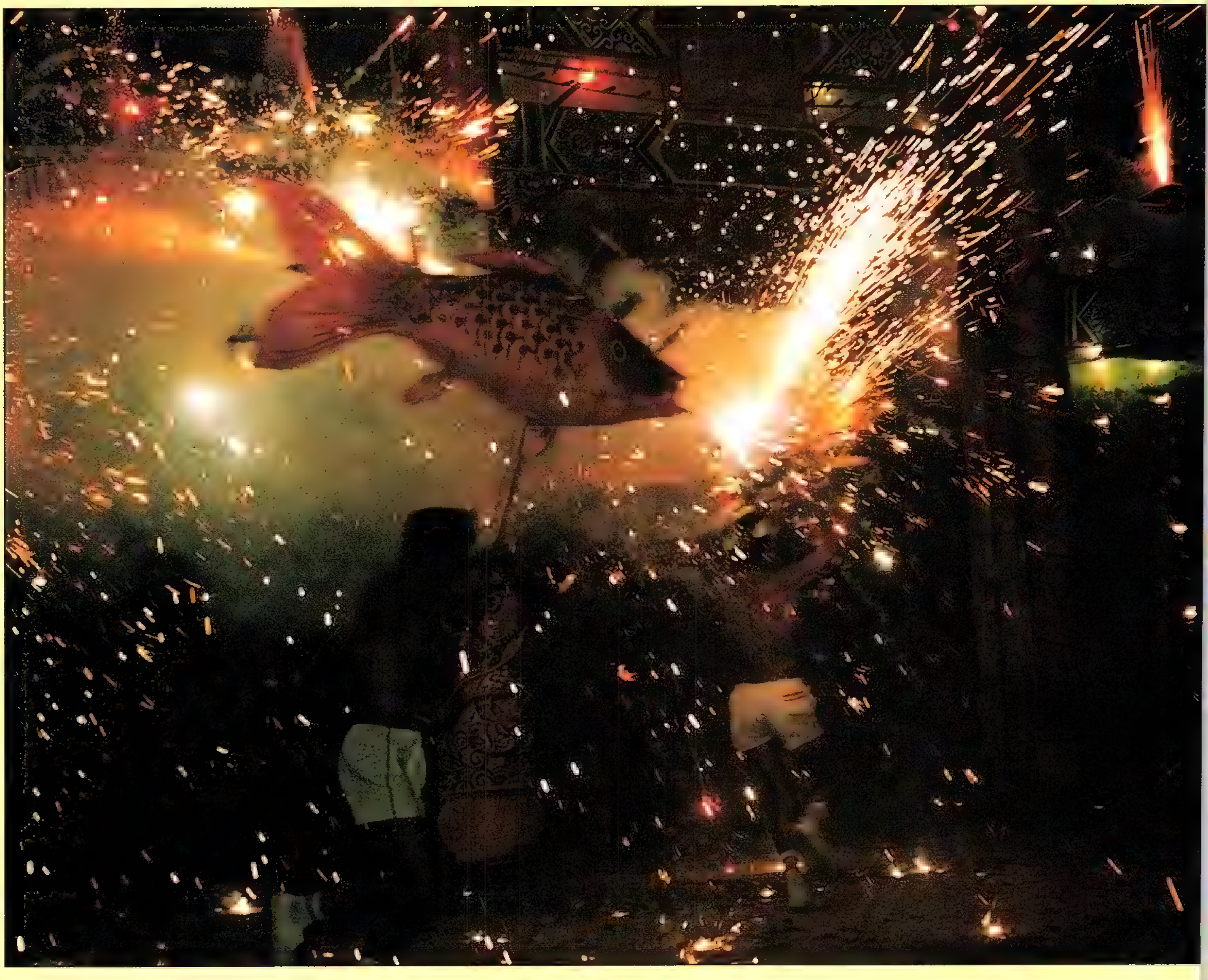
Because the Hakka were originally from aristocratic and official stock, and consequently educated and highly cultured, the Hakka have always attached great importance to the value of education. To make it possible for the Hakka men to gain academic distinction, the women have traditionally been responsible for managing household affairs as well as farming, leaving the men at home studying. Nowadays, many Hakkas from Dabu become provincial officials or high-ranking army officers, and many travel overseas to pursue successful careers in business. Once they make money overseas, they send it home to maintain their families, as well as to renovate buildings and build roads, schools and bridges. My trip to Dabu was to attend the opening ceremony of a school built with funds donated by overseas Chinese. Travelling with me was Mr. Du Ai, a venerable writer born in Dabu. He was a fascinating companion, as many scenes along the way jogged his memory, prompting him to reminisce about the past in Dabu County.





▶ *Carrying floral lanterns and letting off firecrackers are favourite amusements at the time of the Lantern Festival.*

▼ *The Fire Dragon Dance on the night of the Lantern Festival*



Above: *Though looking somewhat incongruous, pictures of beauties hanging side by side with the traditional God of Wealth and God of Longevity add a cheerful touch to the room.*

Middle: *Huliao Town, the new county seat of Dabu, has a broad avenue by the bus station (by Li Huaide).*

SANYO
幸福平安歲月
繁華錦綉河山

n New Year holidays and other festive occasions relatives return from road for family reunions in their hometown.

Sanhe Town, Departure Point for Southeast Asia

We flew from Guangzhou to Meixian County, then drove up to Dabu. After crawling along the winding mountain road for two hours, we passed Sanheba (Three River Dam) Bridge. Mr. Du stopped the car, and we walked to the crest of the bridge. Looking north, we could see both the Meijiang River and the Tingjiang River converging to become the mighty Hanjiang. Fishing boats and freighters were plying the wide waters. On the west bank is a small town called Sanhe, from where the Hakka used to depart for other parts of Southeast Asia. Gazing at the broad Hanjiang River flowing into the Sanheba valley and rolling on southwards, Mr. Du told me that he himself had also sailed from here, many years earlier, to live and work in the Philippines.

Half an hour south of Sanheba, we reached Huliao Town, the newly-built seat of Dabu County. After supper, we went out to see the night market. Although it was only dusk, the roadsides were blazing with lights, and clothes and food stalls were doing a roaring trade. Although we had just eaten, we had to try some "Chuiwan" (Beaten Ball), a local speciality. Made from fresh beef, minced with a wooden mallet, kneaded into a ball and fried, they were crisp and delicious.

Other culinary specialities of the Hakka include salted pressed duck, which can be seen hanging in bizarre rows from stalls, and stuffed chillies and beancurd.

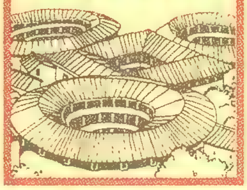
Unique Wedding Celebrations

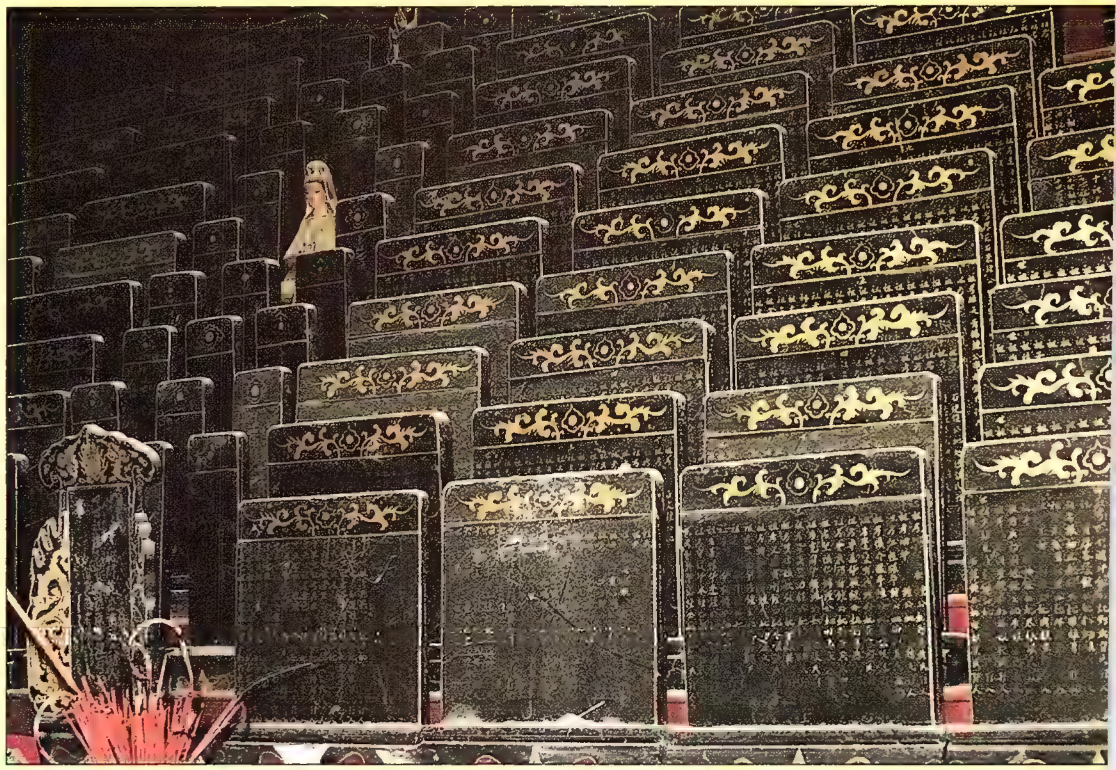
The opening ceremony for the Jinguang Middle School was held early the next morning. The school lies in a remote valley, more than 10 kilometres from Huliao, but is the tallest building in Dabu County.

People came from villages all around to celebrate the opening, performing lion and dragon dances, setting off firecrackers and banging drums and gongs. The Dragon Dance was the most lively and vigorous. During the New Year celebrations, Dabu Dragon Dance troupes will enter every house to pay a call. As well as dancing in the courtyard, they will enter the ancestral hall, and will even dance on the tops of the walls and on the roof. It is very dramatic to see the dragon, powered by 10 strong men, writhing and twisting on the walls and roof.

The thought of the New Year celebrations was a pleasing one for Mr. Du. Above the hubbub, he told me that although he had not lived in Dabu for several decades, he had returned home seven times for the New Year festivities, because he had such

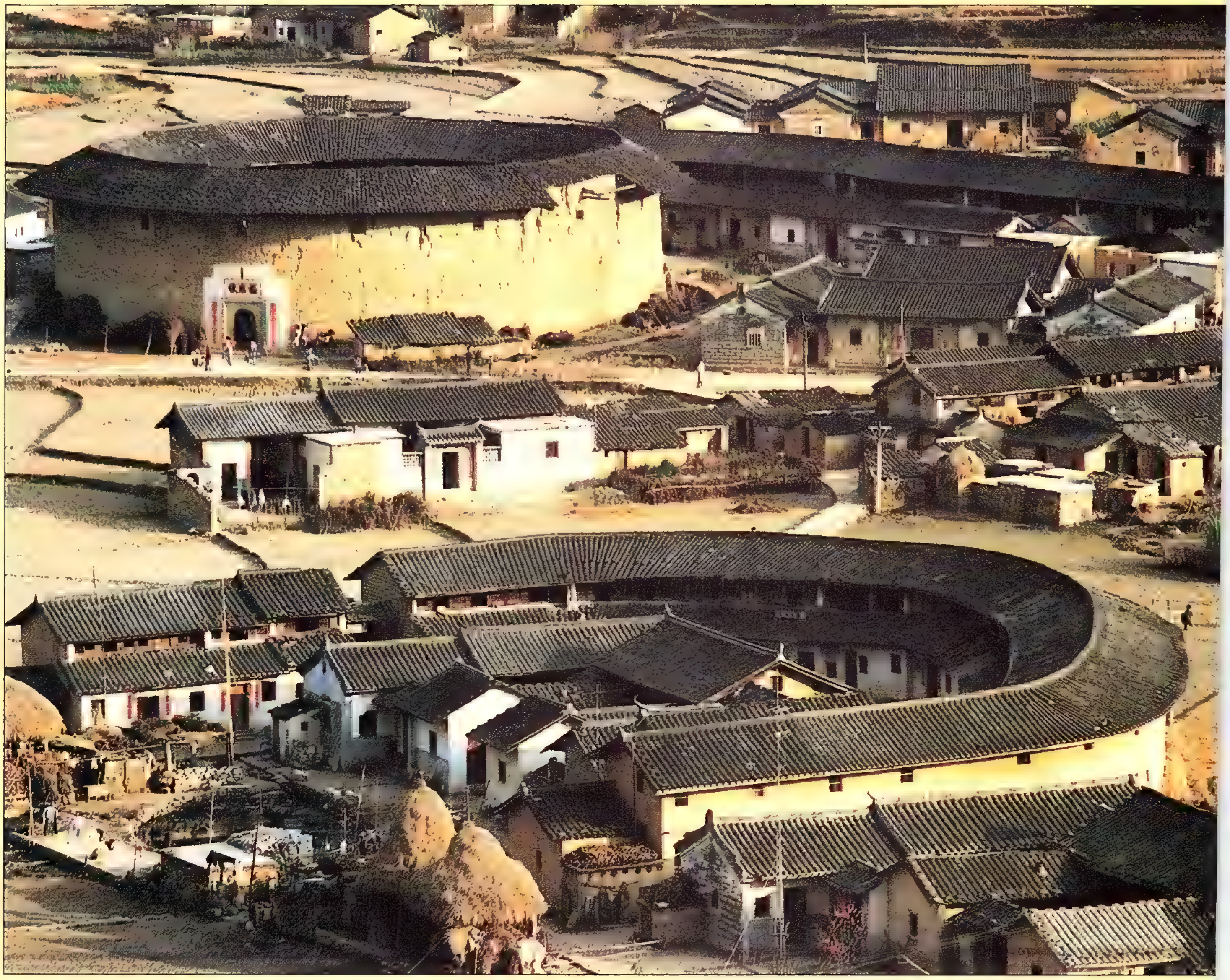
大埔 Dabu





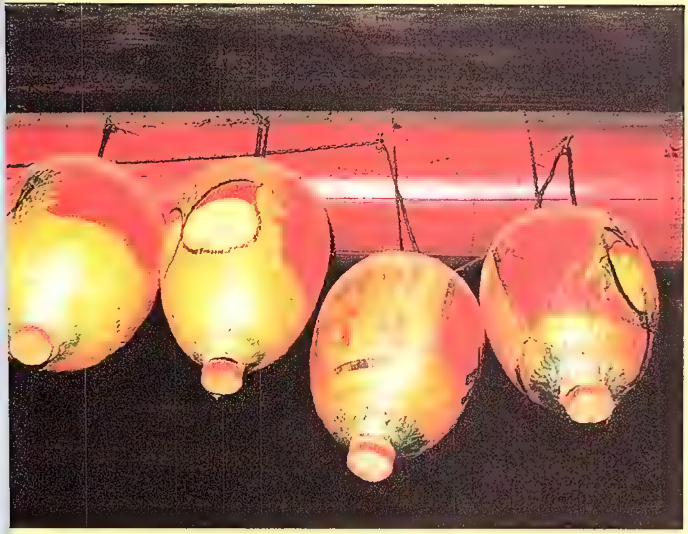
▶ *Memorial tablets of ancestors enshrined in the village ancestral temple in Dabu*

▼ *The peculiar semicircular and circular structures are typical of Hakka residences in Dabu's mountainous areas.*



Top: *Whenever a boy is born in a family, a lantern is hung in the ancestral temple as a message to their ancestors that the family had another son. In the Hakka dialect, "boy" and "lantern" are homonyms.*

Middle: *The ancestral house of the former prime minister of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, is well preserved.*



rtraits of Lee Kuan Yew's ancestors can be seen in the house.

fond memories of it from his youth. In Dabu, from the Spring Festival until the Lantern Festival, every household is busy making offerings to the Kitchen God, worshipping ancestors, letting off fireworks, watching operas, lighting lanterns and so forth. No wonder Mr. Du had returned so many times.

Mr. Du also told me of a unique local custom, when, on the eve of the Lantern Festival, people go to the wedding rooms of couples who had been married the year before last, to congratulate them on their nuptials. Even if the couple have children, they are still congratulated as if they were newlyweds.

Lanterns in the Ancestral Hall

The Hakka have maintained the tradition of ancestor-worship, an old central-Chinese custom. Many Hakka villages keep detailed genealogical records, so families can trace their ancestors back over hundreds of years. The records, thick, bound volumes often weighing 10 kilograms each, are kept by the village headman, and faithfully record the fortunes of the clans. Although it is difficult to get permission to view the records, as they are jealously guarded, they provide a fascinating glimpse of the history of Hakka families. There are many other instances of this old culture to be seen in Dabu, especially in the architecture. The houses of the Hakka are traditionally built with very high walls, to ward off bandit attacks. Some of the houses in the area are said to be several hundred years old. They can take many forms, being square or semicircular, and can be home to several dozen families. They are all of the same clan, and all have the same family name. The older generation will inhabit the central area, while the younger members will use the edges. The ancestral hall is situated in the central hall, and houses the memorial tablets of the ancestors.

In an ancestral hall in Baihou Town, we noticed several lanterns hanging from a beam. The lighting of lanterns during the day has a special meaning in Dabu: When a family has a new baby boy, they light a lantern to inform the ancestors of the fact. This is because the words "lantern" and "boy" sound very similar in the Hakka language. Some overseas Hakkas will return to their ancestral hall from huge distances to hang a lantern, such is the importance they attach to the event.

The Hakka people are proud of their success, their prosperity and their culture, and have every reason to be.

Translated by Chen Hansheng

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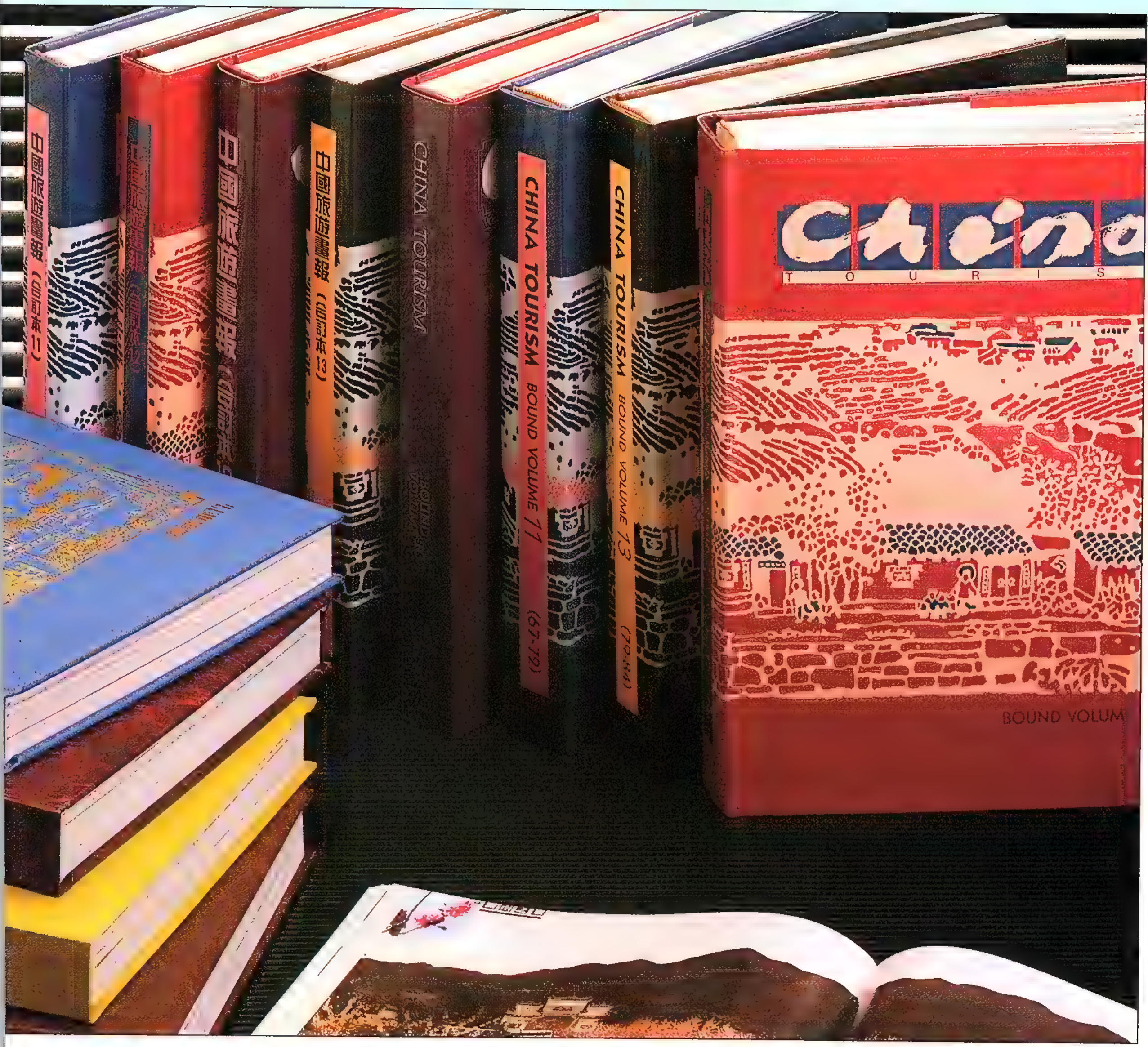

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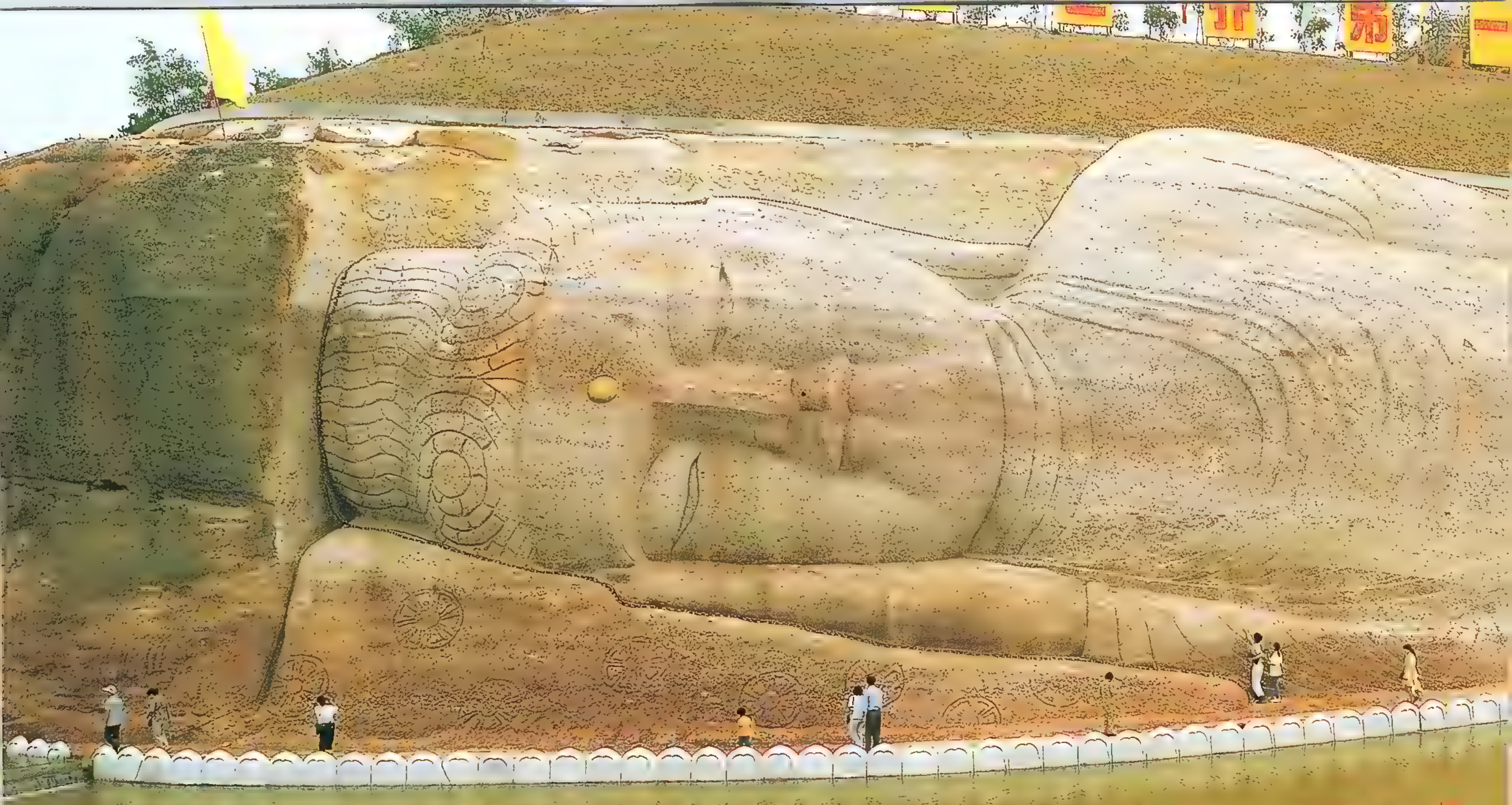


The Unveiling of the Gian

PHOTOS & ARTICLE BY CHAN YAT NIN

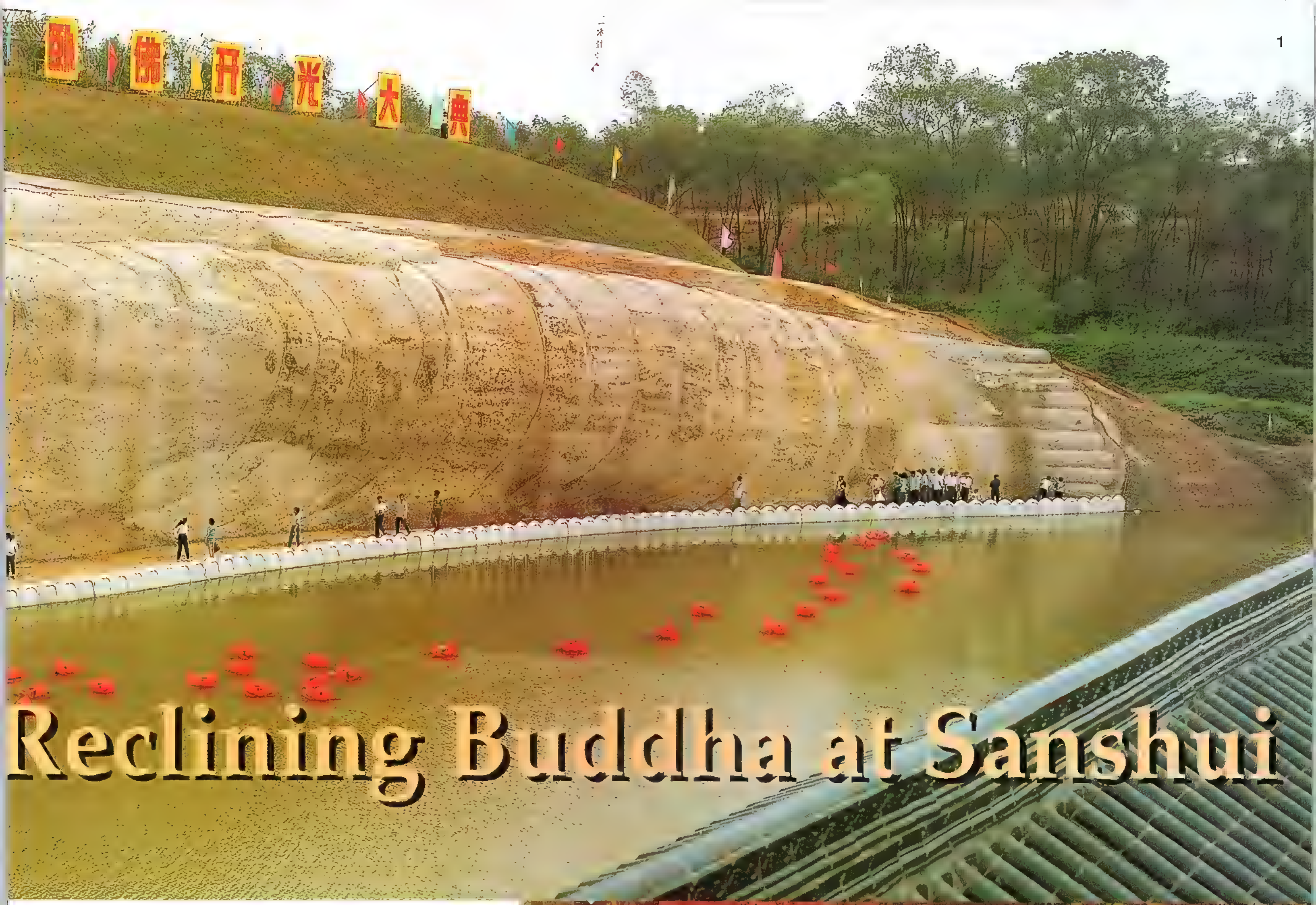
2

A few months ago a grand ceremc
for the unveiling of the larg
reclining Buddha in the world was h
at Sanshui in Guangdong Province. T
occasion was scheduled to coinci
with Sakyamuni Buddha's birthday
the eighth day of the fourth lu
month, which this year fell on May 1

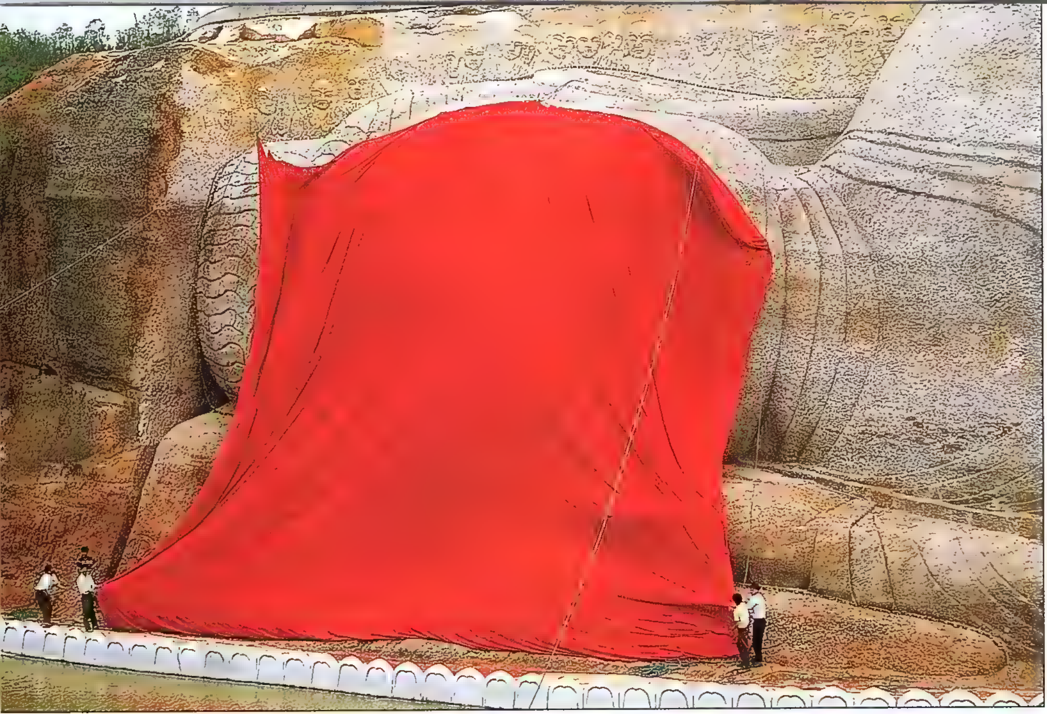
You may wonder why the worl
largest reclining Buddha is located
Guangdong, which has never bee
strongly Buddhist region. You migh
even more surprised to hear that the
veiling ceremony was presided over
several dozen lamas from the far-
Tibetan plateau, headed by Bu
Kimbalochu Rimpoche, chairman of
Buddhist Association of Tibet.

The giant sculpted Buddha recli
on the rocky Buddha Hill – origin
known as Fairy Rock – at the centr
the Sanshui Forest Park, about two k
metres from the city of Sanshui. Ea
accessible from Hong Kong, Sanshu
located just west of Guangzhou.

The 108-metre-long giant reclining B
dha is a sculptural wonder (1). ■
unveiling ceremony began with Tibe
lamas blowing long suona *horns (2*
People in Sanshui had never seen la
from "the roof of the world" bef
They gathered around to watch t
perform religious observances, wh
were quite a novelty (3).



Reclining Buddha at Sanshui



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Since there is a large open space in front o Buddha Hill and a clear pond at its foot, pilgrim who came to attend the ceremony could obtain complete view of the giant Buddha, which ha been hewn out of the foot of the hill in the reclining position that the Buddha lay in when he entered nirvana. The sculpture follows the contour of the rock, so that the hill and the Buddha appea to merge into one, as if created by nature. Befor the unveiling, the face of the Buddha was covere with a sheet of red silk. One could only see hi clothes and body, which were carved in natura flowing lines in the style of the sculptural art o the Tang Dynasty. The reclining Buddha, measuring 108 metres from head to feet and 16 metres i height, is the largest of its kind in the world.*

Sanshui has never been a centre of Buddhis activity, so why was it chosen for the location o an image of the Buddha of such dimension? I fact, the giant Buddha has its origin in a local Buddhist legend. It is said that when Monk Hui Nen (638-713), the sixth patriarch of Zen Buddhism passed Baoyue (Precious Moon) Village i Sanshui late one night while on a preaching tou he saw magic lights twinkling on Fairy Rock, ou lining a reclining Buddha on the rock's surfac He seemed to see the reclining Buddha resting h head on his hands and smiling towards heave The Zen master hurriedly paid homage and aske the Buddha to shower blessings upon the world

In recent years, more than 3,000 hectares o land around Buddha Hill have been turned into forest park. One of the main construction projec underway in the forest park is the Long Life Cu tural Villa of China. The founder of the villa, specialist in the science of the human body, wa inspired by the Buddhist legend of Hui Nen "Why not turn the reclining Buddha witnessed b the sixth Zen patriarch into one that can be see by ordinary people?" he suggested. Funds we raised from among friends both in China ar abroad. Professor Sui Jianguo, a sculptor at tl Central Academy of Fine Arts, was commissione to supervise the designing and chiselling.

Expansion work is now under way at Buddl Hill. As many as 640 niches with Buddhist imag are being hewn into the northern cliff face ar inlaid with marble. A 130-metre-long section the top of Buddha Hill will be protected by a law with the patterns of 18 large lotus flowers. T bed on which the giant Buddha reclines is fenc off by a marble balustrade carved with lotus pe als. A 60-metre-long corridor has been built ne to the pond in front of Buddha Hill. Inscriptio by notable figures are on display in the corrid and pictures illustrating Buddhist stories a painted on the corridor's beams and girders.

Commissioning Tibetan lamas to perform Buddhist ceremony was unprecedented not or in Sanshui, but in the whole of South China. Th presence gave the ceremony a lively and myste ous atmosphere.

**As this article was going to press, news arrive that a new giant reclining Buddha, longer than the or in Sanshui, had been carved on Wuyou Peak, opposi the site of the famous Leshan Giant Buddha in Sichua Province.*

4

When it was time for the ceremony to begin, the lamas blew long *suona* horns. After Bumi Kimbalochu Rimpoche announced that the ceremony for the unveiling of the reclining Buddha and the prayer ceremony were to commence, the red silk concealing the Buddha's face was slowly removed, revealing his solemn and gentle expression. The lamas chanted scriptures and at the same time performed various movements with their religious objects, changing their hats twice in the process.

The ceremony they performed included "brightening the eyes" of the Buddha, burning magic figures drawn on paper, aiding the souls of the dead, purifying the sins of the living, making a thousand offerings and an *abhiseka*, or initiation, for the Buddha of Longevity. Although few of those who were present understood the meaning of the ceremonies performed by the lamas from "the roof of the world", they were very curious about them. When it was time for believers to burn incense and pray on their own, many people rushed to the marble balustrade and began to pour onto themselves, or smear themselves with, liquid from the several hundred copper cups of buttered tea, which they believed was "sacred water". Women carrying babies in their arms dipped the hands of their babies into the bowls to evoke blessings from the Buddha.

The ceremony lasted for a long time. Late at night, religious music still echoed in the air and the area was still illuminated by incense, candles and butter lamps.

Translated by Tang Bowen

6

The red silk covering the face of the giant Buddha was slowly lowered amidst religious music (1). ■ *People gathered in the open space and on the hilltops to watch the religious ceremony (2).* ■ *Before the unveiling ceremony, an auspicious mandala was drawn by sprinkling pigments through a funnel (3, by Wen Liang).* ■ *Many believers were curious to see the thousand cups of butter and butter lamps (4).* ■ *The unusual attire of the lamas and their unique religious ceremony added a mysterious air to the unveiling (5).* ■ *Believers knelt in front of the giant Buddha to pray (6).* ■ *Believers looked upon the buttered tea offered to the Buddha as "sacred water" and smeared themselves with it to evoke blessings (7).*

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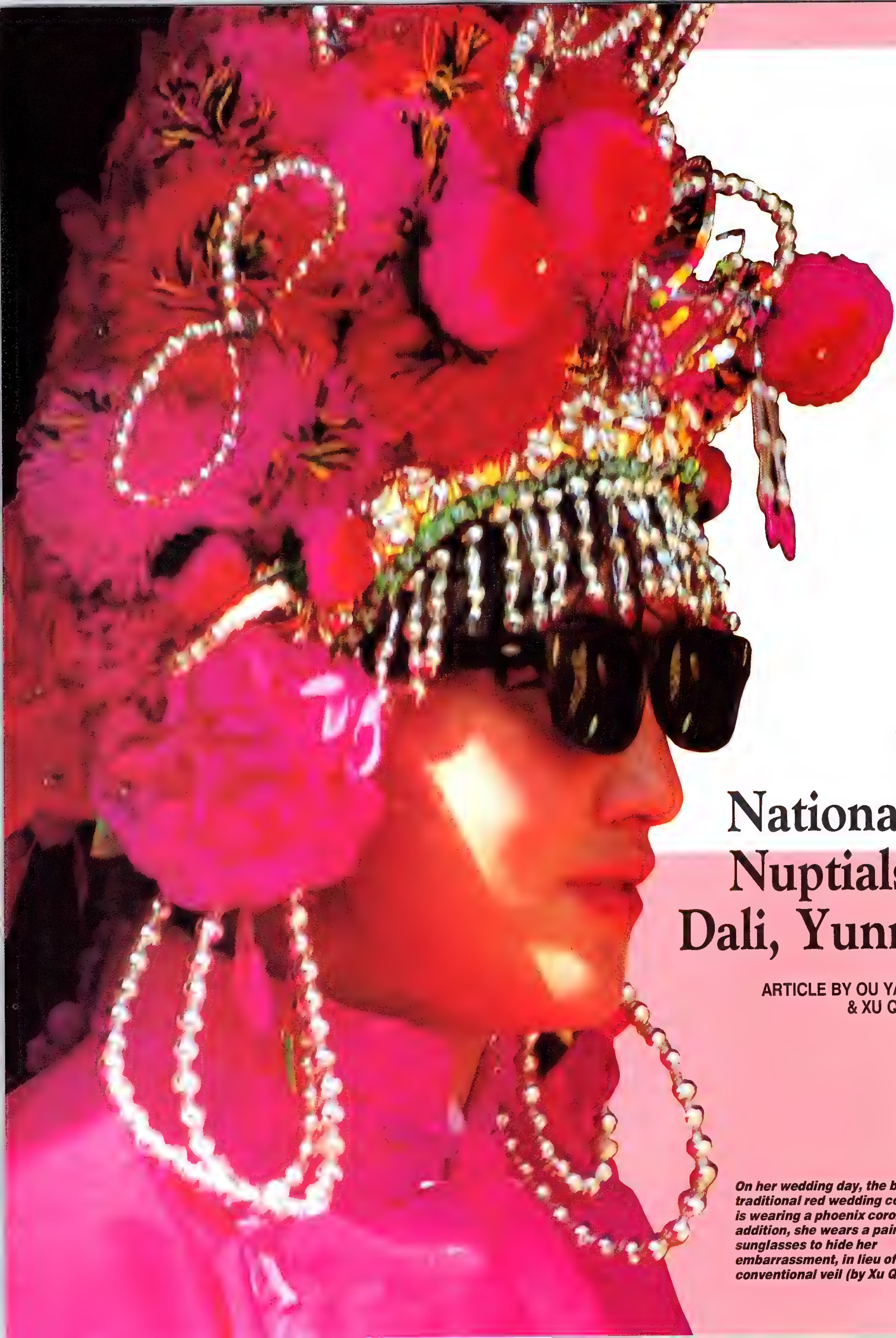


Ba Nationalit Nuptials i Dali, Yunna

ARTICLE BY OU YANSHEN
& XU QINGYUA

On her wedding day, the bride is in traditional red wedding costume a is wearing a phoenix coronet. In addition, she wears a pair of sunglasses to hide her embarrassment, in lieu of the conventional veil (by Xu Qingyuan)

A day's westbound bus trip took me from Kunming, capital city of Yunnan Province to Dali. The next morning, I hurried to Zhoucheng which was 30 kilometres from Dali to observe a wedding ceremony of the Bai nationality. Wedding ceremonies of the Bai people are usually held during a period of a dozen days efore the Spring Festival. With such a short preferred time it is no onder that sometimes there are as many as 40 wedding ceremon-s in a single day.

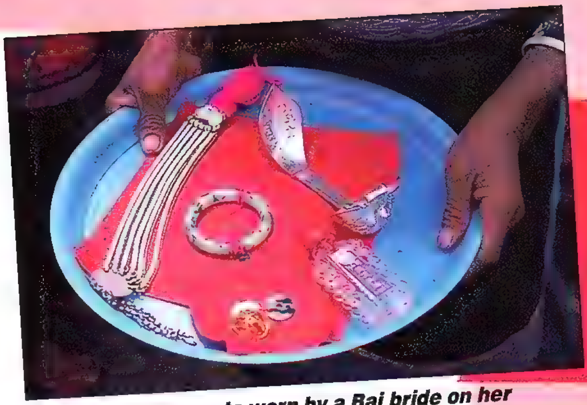
Zhoucheng is the village with the most compact Bai community Dali. With the Diancang Mountain as a backdrop and the Erhai ke in the foreground, it is very scenic and tranquil. Early that orning, my ears following the deafening sound of gongs, drums d firecrackers, I found a procession enroute to fetching the bride her home. The groom was in white and all smiles. He headed an nour guard made up of people playing *suona* horns, drums and ngs. The procession, in which some carried quilts, and others car-d the sedan chair, was escorted by villagers towards the home of e bride.

The day is referred to as "the right day for marriage", which, in cordance with the marriage customs of the Bai people, was lculated according to the couple's Eight Characters, a general term the Heavenly Stem and Earthly Branch, based on the time, date, onth and year of a person's birth, formerly used in fortune-telling.

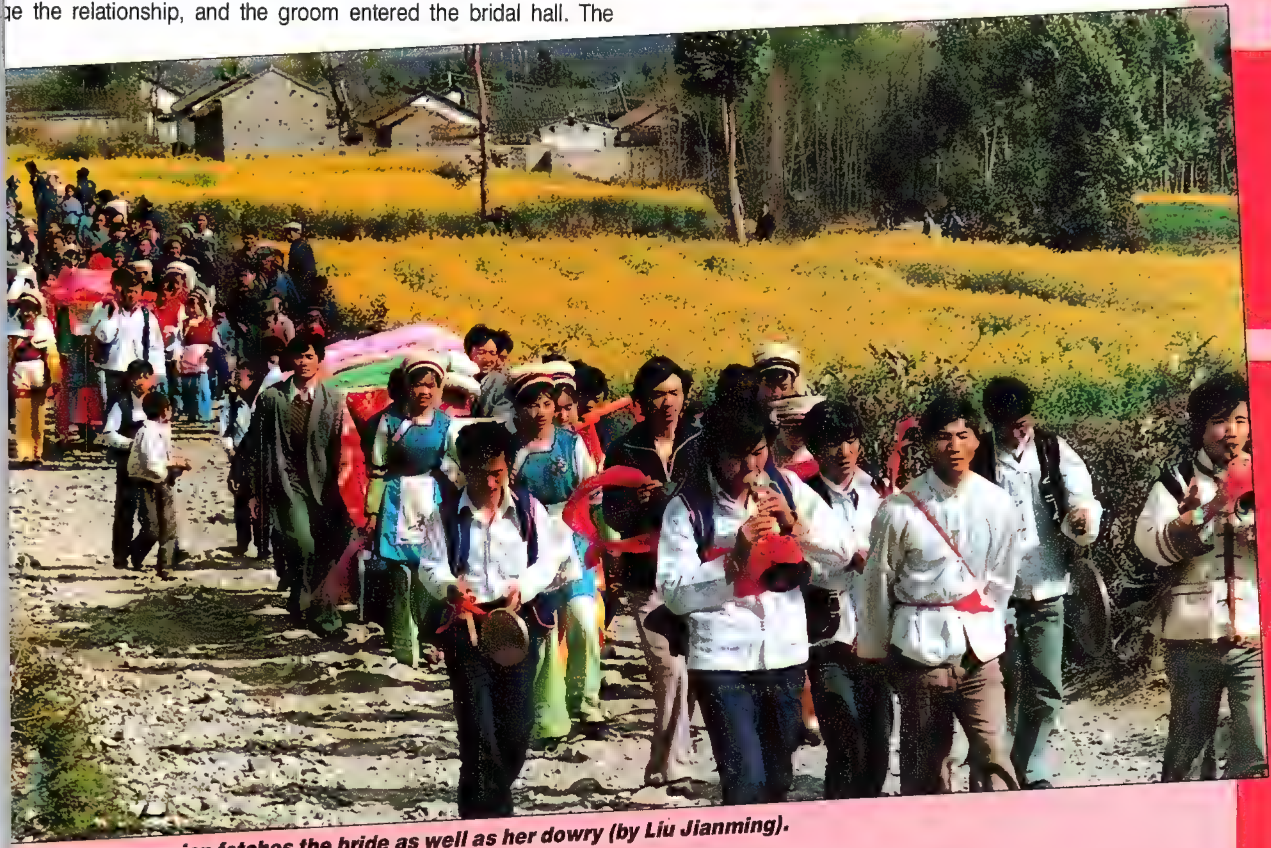
Wine Sprinkling: Blessing and Thanksgiving

I followed the procession to the bride's home. From a distance, I v on the door of the bride's home some pieces of red paper cribed with characters meaning "Double Happiness", "An Affec-nate Couple" and "Full of Joy". As soon as the procession pped into the doorway, the father of the bride sprinkled the ests with wine. Not realizing this I failed to dodge and thus was ight in the sprinkle of wine. According to the wedding customs of Bai people, this is an act of blessing and thanksgiving.

The parents of the bride and the groom shook hands to acknowl-ge the relationship, and the groom entered the bridal hall. The


The silver ornaments worn by a Bai bride on her wedding day (by Ou Yansheng)

Relatives are popping their heads in to see the graceful bearing of the bride on her "right day" (by Zhao Yibo).


e grand procession fetches the bride as well as her dowry (by Liu Jianming).

Drinking "love wine" signifies the eternal love between the couple (by Liu Jianming).

The bride mounts the sedan chair. She is congratulated by her friends for her good fortune in marrying such a good husband (by Liu Jianming).

bride had not yet shown up — she was still making herself up and woul not come out until she was perfectly completed. Though the groom di not appear too anxious, the young men who escorted him were too im patient to wait. They beat drums and gongs in an effort to flush the bric out.

After some time, the bride finally was satisfied and came out of h boudoir. She wore a traditional red wedding gown and a phoenix coron decorated with flowers and beads. But she also sported somethin untraditional — a pair of sun-glasses. She was shy and the sunglasse were used in place of the traditional red veil to conceal h embarrassment.

In the bridal hall, the bride and the groom kowtowed three times their parents, and then exchanged bows. That ended the wedding ce emony.

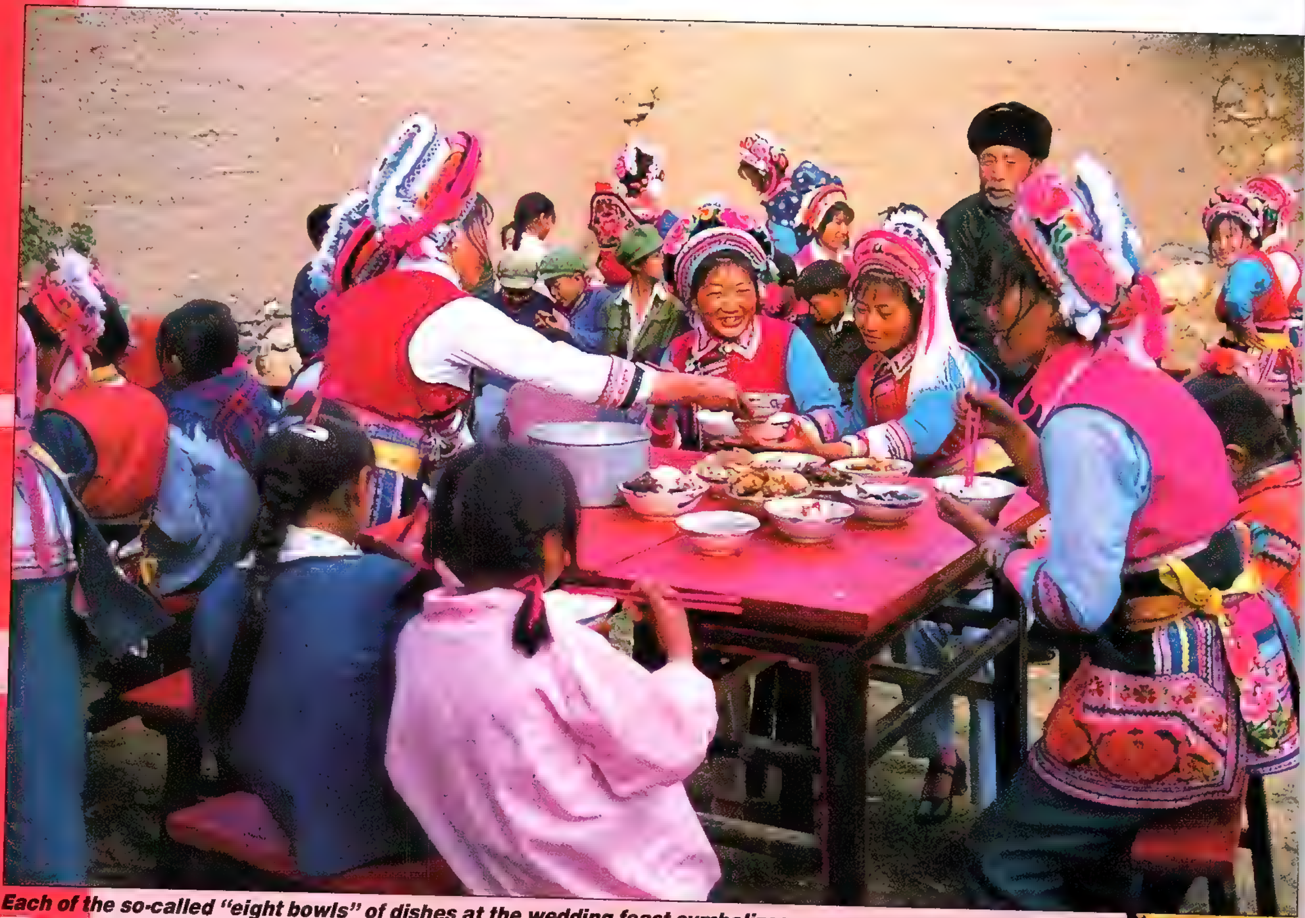
As soon as the bride stepped out of the bridal hall, she choked u with sobs and cried and cried. In the nuptial rituals of the Bai people, th bride has to cry a lot to express her gratitude to her parents and her r luctance to depart from her family.

It is a custom for groups of unmarried young people to stop the pr cession on its return to the groom's home. By hook or by crook, th coax the newly married couple into singing, dancing or narrating the h tory of their courtship. If the couple refuse to do so, the procession wou be held up until the bride and the groom have complied with t requirements.

Ring Around the Lucky Tree — Praying for a Happy Marriage

When the procession reached the entrance of the groom's home lage, the groom led his bride round a huge tree three times according required customs. The purpose of this is to pray for a happy marriage a having a child soon. This tree is not any ordinary tree but is designated the "lucky tree" of the particular village. It is said that in every Bai villa there grows such a lucky tree to ensure its continued prosperity.

After circling the lucky tree, the procession finally reached the groor home. Led by an elder member of the groom's family who held a sm torch, the bride was formally received into the house. Then the bride a the groom knelt down at the centre of the courtyard and worshipp



Each of the so-called "eight bowls" of dishes at the wedding feast symbolizes one characteristic of a happy marriage (by Ou Yansheng)

Heaven and Earth facing towards the four directions on the compass. As soon as he newlyweds entered their bridal chamber, the best man sprinkled some hot pepper powder onto a brazier. The permeating pungence of the hot pepper irritated the noses of the newlyweds, making them cough ceaselessly. The Bai people like everyone else, consider a wedding a joyous event and this red hot style is considered the best way to celebrate it.

In compliance with tradition, the bridal chamber was arranged with the bride's ich and generous dowry, which included a wardrobe, a sewing machine, quilts, embroidered shoes and silver ornaments.

Three Courses of Tea and Eight Symbolic Dishes

A wedding ceremony usually includes a wedding feast, and that of the Bai people is no exception. What is special is that before the feast, the host would reat his guests to three courses of tea. The first type of tea is brewed from some plain and bitter tea leaves, and is delicately fragrant and faintly bitter. The amount of his course of tea is just one mouthful for each guest. The second helping of tea is with some brown sugar, so it is sweet to counterbalance the previous serving. There s some honey and several pieces of Chinese prickly ash in the third blend of tea, which tastes sweetly bitter and bitterly sweet. This unusual mix produces an afteraste. I sampled all three courses of tea at the wedding feast and can vouch that hey all have a special flavour.

The three courses of tea were followed by the feast. On each table there were ight courses of delicious dishes typical of that of the Bai people. These eight ishes, including stewed pork, dried pork with brown sauce, and shredded carrot, ere placed in eight big bowls, thus the name "eight bowls". People say each of he eight dishes is symbolic in meaning — stewed pork symbolizing loyalty to love, hredded carrot, representing mutual affinity and so on.

After the drinking had gone three rounds, in high spirits, the young people in the llage went in a group to tease the newlyweds in their bridal chamber.

The lively and complicated wedding ceremony of the Bai people usually lasts for ree days. The night of the first day ends with a practice called "making merry in e awning". That night relatives and friends of the groom are invited to an awning et up at the centre of the courtyard. Sitting ound a bonfire, they listen to local peras and tunes of lucky themes. his particular part usually sts all night long.

anslated by Chen Jiaji

The newly married couple are worshipping Heaven and Earth in the courtyard of the groom's home (by Xu Qingyuan).

Masterpieces of Ancient Shepherds

1

–The Cliffside Paintings on Heishan Mountain

PHOTOS BY ZHU YANMING / TEXT BY SHI JUN

In the desert to the north of Jiayuguan City in Gansu Province lies an ancient mountain called Heishan. Viewed from a distance, it appears a dark red colour, like cast bronze, but as one gets closer one can see that it consists only of sparsely growing bushes and extremely dry grass – not a single tree lives on the mountain. Barren as it is, the mountain has been a treasure trove of ancient and modern cliffside paintings, most of which were casually engraved by shepherds once living in this region.

When I visited Jiayuguan, Mr. Wang, a local friend of mine, accompanied me to see the cliffside paintings. As soon as I entered the Heishan Mountain Valley, I immediatey started searching each and every piece of rock on both sides of the path for signs of the paintings. Seeing this, Mr. Wang laughed and explained that the spots with the paintings had all been carefully marked off. Under his guidance, I soon found some paintings, most of which were images of animals, hunters or dancing figures. According to archaeologists, some of them were done over 4,000 years ago.

The most vivid images were of animals such as tigers, tapirs, wild oxen, sheep, wild geese and snakes. One of the hunting scenes was quite lifelike, depicting a hunter with a fully drawn bow in the act of shooting an arrow, while around him were fleeing camels and sheep. The picture of a wild ox hunt, hoowever, was the most impressive. The ox was standing on its hind legs, with its forelegs raised in the air, head held high. Facing it was a man with outstretched arms and bent knees, unmistakably a hunter. The ox looked surprisingly like those found on murals thousands of kilometres away in Spain's Altamira Cave, and both were scenes of the animals being hunted – a rare coincidence.

From the content of the pictures, one gets the idea that the nomadic people living in this region in ancient times had minds that were extremely free and unrestrained. The postures of the dancers were naturally graceful and imbued with vitality. There were group dances, sol dances, pas de deux and combinations of these. Pointin to the long tassels on the heads of the dancers, Mr. Wan explained that these were possibly images of the ancie Qiang people, as the tribe was in existence here in th Neolithic Age.

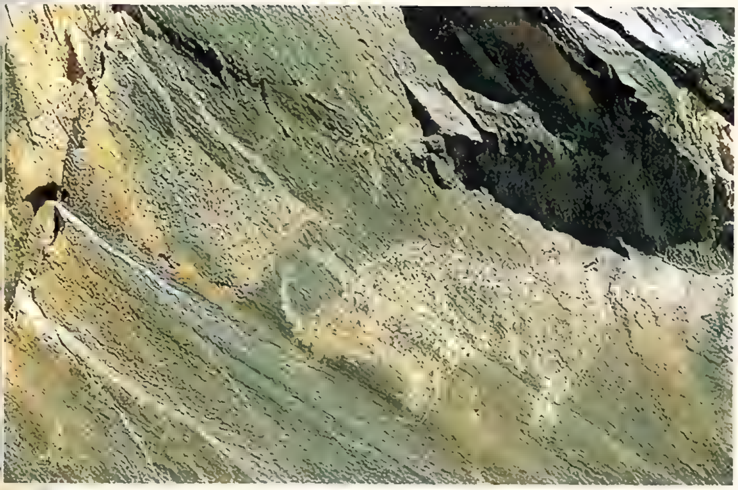
Some other pictures showing copulating sheep an dogs were also vividly carved. Shepherds working c Heishan Mountain would, during their leisure moment pick up a hard piece of stone and scratch out images mating animals that they saw before them: early forms improvised art.

In addition to the drawings, written inscriptions we also found on Heishan rocks. Those from the remote pa were executed in pictographic characters, most similar the inscriptions on tortorise shells found in the Centr Plains. We went round several cliffs and finally fou the pictographs for "sun", "moon", "sheep" and "tre which had obviously already evolved from figures in linear characters. There were also some ancient Tibet inscriptions, but the Han Chinese characters were more interest to us. They were first written in standa script using brush pens on the chiselled surface of a ro then carved.

One inscription was the handwriting of a governor Shuzhou Prefecture during the reign of Emperor Wa (r. 1573-1620) of the Ming Dynasty. The more recent t inscriptions were, the more obvious the tints of huma ity they bore. Then pictures relating to religion appear We found images of sacrificial halls, Buddhist pagod Buddha statues and others. Compared with simi works from the Central Plains, these rock pictures look more novel and unusual, both in their imagery and co tent. These more modern works, however, were match for those rendered by the carefree shepherds ancient times, whose depictions of daily life hold gr fascination for today's viewer.

Translated by K.V. Ku

2



3

5

6

Barren Heishan Mountain was a lush
stureland in ancient times.
The camels on this rock picture are richly deco-
tive.
This fierce ox surprisingly resembles those de-
cted on the rocks in Spain's Altamira Cave.
A hunting scene
Inscriptions done by a Ming-dynasty official
ok out of place among the rock pictures.
Sheep and wild geese

The Guzong Festival: Ancestral Sacrifice Among the Miao

PHOTOS BY LUO SHIMING
TEXT BY BAO XIU

If the Han Chinese have a reputation for honouring their ancestors, the Miao minority makes them look positively unfilial. Without fail, regular meal times find them making offerings to their ancestors, always done before they start to eat. At a full-course dinner, they become even more reverent, first picking up bits of rice and meat and throwing them onto the floor and then sprinkling a cup of wine over it all. Only after they give their ancestors the first portion do they begin to eat themselves. On New Year's Day or other festivals, they fill plates and cups with food and wine and piously place them in a row on the table before the memorial tablets of their ancestors.

For the Miao people living in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the Guzong Festival is their grandest festival dedicated to making ancestral offerings. During this festival, men and women of all ages gather together from one or several villages to hold sacrificial activities. By custom, a grand ancestral festival takes place every 13 years, while minor ones occur every three to five years. Each of these sacrificial periods lasts for at least three years. In the first year, every household in the village raises funds to buy cattle; in the second year during the summer they catch fish from the river to serve as sacrifices; and in the third year they slaughter the cattle they have bought and raised specifically for this purpose. It is this climax of sacrificial activities that take place in the third year that is known as the Guzong Festival.

Usually, the Guzong Festival lasts for two days. During the first day, people entertain their friends and relatives who have come to extend their greetings, while the second day is devoted to a lively and gran
sacrificial ceremony.

At daybreak all the villagers turn ou
from their homes dressed in their holida
best. Together with their rela
tives and friends, who have ar
rived the previous day, they bea
drums and gongs, play ree
pipes and set off firecrackers a
they proceed to an open are
outside of the village. Here the
form a procession.

At the head of the processio
is the strong, fat bull they have been feedin
for two years. The bull is draped with ban
of red and green silk, and on its horns han
clothes, hats, shoes and other belonging
left by the deceased of the village. Tw
strong young men lead the bull, while se
eral women shelter the bull's back wit
black umbrellas. A highly respected elder
the village walks just behind the bull. Fo

Many villages join together at the Guzong Festival to offer sacrifices to ancestors.

lowing him is the "Bull Chief" who has been selected by the villagers. After them come an honour guard comprised of reed-pipe players, flag bearers, and a gong and drum contingent. Behind the honour guard, colourfully dressed young women dance gaily to the music as the entire procession marches towards the "Bullfight Field".

First, the bull is led around the grounds. Then the village elder approaches, picks up a handful of yellow earth and places it on the back of the bull, then covers it with a piece of red cloth. The bull carries the earth back to the village, where it is divided among the vilagers. Each family keeps its share as a valued treasure, for according to Miao custom, yelow earth symbolizes gold. To treasure the earth means to treasure the goals to which their ancestors aspired, and to express dedication to the memory of those who have gone before.

With the completion of this symbolic ceremony, the festivities begin. The strongest bulls chosen from different villages are led to he clearing for a bullfight. The crash of their horns mingled with the cheering of the onookers reverberates throughout the village. Young women and men take advantage of his opportunity to get acquainted, pushing and shoving flirtatiously as they make their way to Reed-pipe Meadow, where the men igorously play their reed pipes and the women dance to the music.

At the centre of Reed-pipe Meadow sit arious sacrificial offerings: large pieces of eef, chicken, duck and fish, basketfuls of lutinous rice balls and bottles of aged rice vine. When the sacrificial activities are over, ne "Bull Chief" emerges from the crowd and resents the best of the sacrificial food to the lderly members to eat first. The children hen begin to eat, and the middle-aged and oung people eat last.

In recent years the ancestral sacrifices have een subjected to modification, and fewer ulls are slaughtered. This is very different rom a hundred years ago, when almost very family slaughtered cattle and pigs and te and drank without restraint. With such profligacy, the villagers frequently found themselves bereft of the very beasts they needed for ploughing the land after the festival. As such bitter experiences accumulated, they gradually curtailed e practice of indiscriminate slaughter and xtravagant consumption. Nonetheless, their crificial ceremonies remain grand and vely, with both young and old putting their l into the occasion.

anslated by Xiong Zhenru

Though their beautiful drapery has completely transformed how the bulls look, the animals are obviously unaware that they will soon be slaughtered as sacrificial offerings.

Bulls are well-treated on the way to the Bullfight Field.

Village elders lead people to the Bullfight Field.

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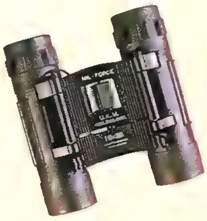

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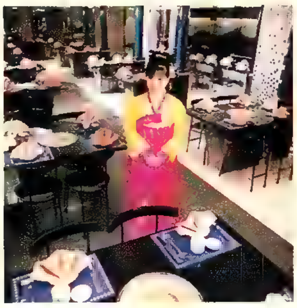

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Fujian's Famous Teas and the Art of Tea-Brewing

TEXT BY BAO XIU

Fujian is a well-known "home of tea" with tea plantations everywhere (by Wang Miao).

Fujianese are very skilful at tea-brewing, therefore are quite particular about their tea sets (by Chan Yat Nin).

In a country known world-wide for its tea, Fujian rates as one of China's top provinces when comes to this popular beverage. This is not only because Fujian produces so many famous tea but also because of its well-developed arts of tea-brewing and tea-tasting.

The rolling Wuyi Mountains in Fujian are characterised by their many strangely-shape peaks, which are usually enveloped in clouds and fog. One of China's highest grade teas — Wu Rock Tea (Wu Ih Yen Tea) — is produced in these mountains. As early as the Yuan Dynas (1271-1368), this area was established as a Royal Tea Garden to produce tea to offer as tribute emperors. From the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) on, this kind of tea began to be exported to Euro and America. Today Wuyi Rock Tea, which is produced in Tongmuguan in Chong'an County, still an essential traditional drink of the British royal family.

Anxi County in southern Fujian produces another famous tea called Tieguanyin (Ti Kuan Yi an age-old superior variety of Oolong Tea. Other well-known varieties include Bailin Congo Tea, Zhenghe Congou Tea and Tanyang Congou Tea, all produced on Taimu Mountain in easte Fujian, Tianshan Green Tea produced in Ningde County, Qijingtang Green Tea produced Luoyuan County, and jasmine tea (a favourite with people in northern China) produced in t surrounding areas of Fuzhou City.

The coastal Sanjiang (or Three "Jiangs" — Minjiang, Jinjiang and Jiulongjiang) Plain in t centre of the province is an alluvial plain, and is both fertile and populous. Since ancient time numerous famous personages and scholars have come from this area. They were generally we off men of leisure, so after they finished teaching or writing, they would choose a top-quality t brew it with great care and savour it slowly. Over the generations, their experience in masteri the secrets of tea-brewing was passed down and tea-brewing became an art in its own right.

In tea-brewing, every aspect of the process is essential: the selection of the tea, the type water used, the temperature of the water, the tea set itself and the method of preparation. Fuzhou one can visit what are called Tea Art Halls, where one can choose from a variety of t and tea sets. In every hall there are resident tea-brewing masters, who will demonstrate customers the different techniques for preparing the various kinds of tea. In this way one can assured of getting the best possible results from their tea, while at the same time learn about t customs and rituals related to this age-old tradition.

Translated by Chen Jiaji

ea Art Halls are elegant venues for tasting rare varieties of tea and meeting friends (by Chan Yat Nin).

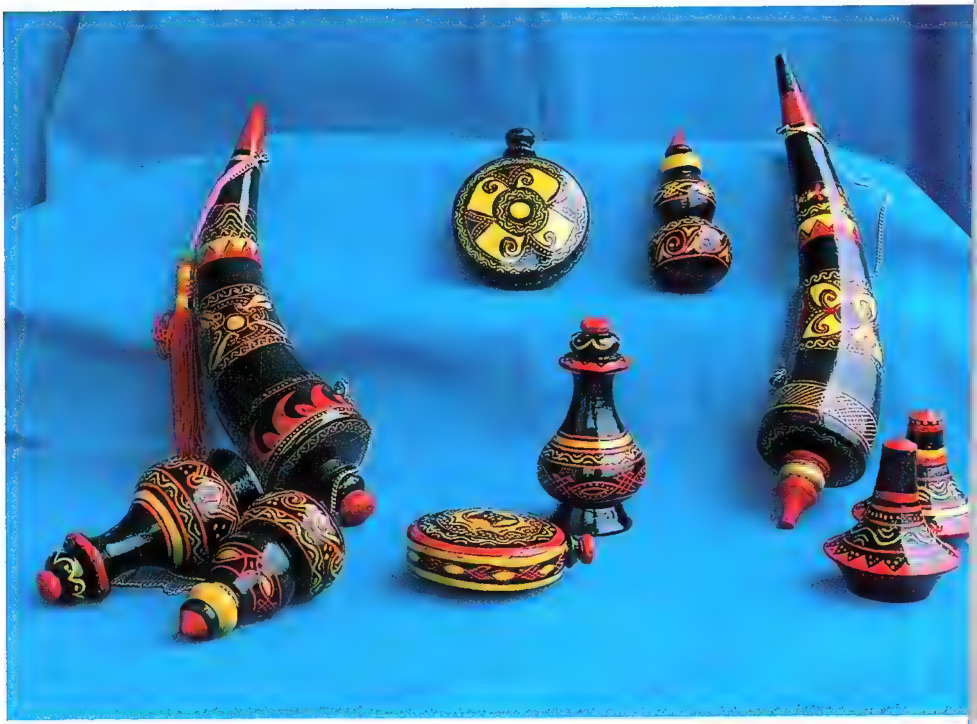
This tea-brewing demonstration was organized by the Fujian Tourism Bureau and the Fujian office of China Travel Service. Tea experts from South Korea, Japan and Taiwan often come to Fujian to study Wuyi Rock Tea and put on demonstrations like this one (by Han Jing).

The Scent of Snuff from Xichang

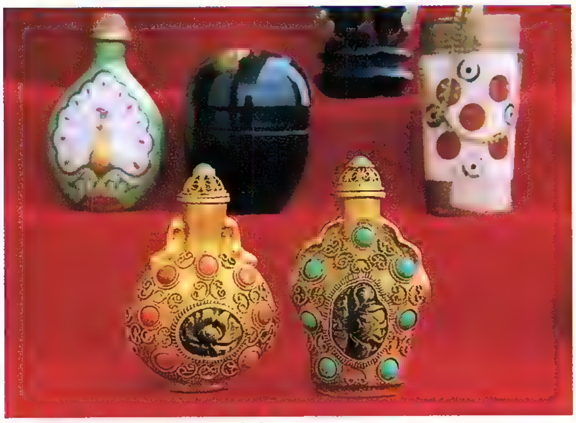
PHOTOS BY LENG DENGY
ARTICLE BY MI DAZHON

Xichang, in Sichuan Province, is best known for its satellite launching centre, and few peopl know about the snuff produced there in recent years. I am not a cigarette smoker, and know still less about snuff, but when I saw a finely crafted snuff bottle, I wanted to open it, inhale th aroma of the snuff in it and run my hands over the uniquely shaped bottle.

Snuff is a high-quality tobacco product with a long history in China. It was first introduced t China by Matthieu Ricci, an Italian Jesuit, who landed in Guangdong in 1581, then travelled to th Ming capital of Beijing to deliver gi from overseas to the Ming cou Among the gifts was snuff. A hu dred years later, when Emper Kangxi (r. 1662-1722) of the Qing D nasty was in Jinling (today's Nanjin during his tour of the south, he w given many gifts from overseas Western missionaries. He gave all the gifts back to the missionaries as rewards and kept only snuff. In the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), snuff became fashionable both inside and out of the i perial court, to the extent that "A scholar official who did not take snuff and drink must be a d person." In the classic novel *A Dream of Red Mansions*, when Qingwen was suffering from a co Boyu tried to use his snuff to cure her. In those days, snuff was very expensive and worth



The animal-horn snuff bottles are ma of yak's horn, polished, coated with la quer, inlaid with sliver and decorat painted. The wooden snuff bottles a made of azalea wood from the Great Liangshan Mountains.



Snuff bottles with agate inlays

Crystal snuff bottles with pictures painted inside

weight in silver. A snuff bottle sometimes cost several thousand ounces of silver.

Snuff bottles were made in a great variety of shapes and styles. They were high-quality works of art, found only in China. In the old days, they were made with coloured glass and carved with decorations. Those with the name of the nanufacturer, Gu Yue Xuan, inscribed on the bottom were the most famous. Today, he Xichang Snuff Factory puts its snuff in crystal bottles with pictures painted inide, agate bottles with silver filigree inlays or porcelain bottles with relief decoraon. The factory also makes lacquer-painted horn bottles and silver-inlaid snuff botes with features particular to the Greater Liangshan Mountain area and in the artistic tyle of the local ethnic minorities. The horn bottles which can be carried on a string ross the shoulder are convenient for the nomadic people when they are on horseback.

Workers at the Xichang Snuff Factory filling bottles with medicated snuff developed by the factory

he silver-inlaid horn bottles are also made of yak's horn.

The Xichang Snuff Factory, located at the foot of the Greater Liangshan Mountains, the only producer of snuff affiliated to the China Tobacco General Corporation. Its search department has developed many varieties of snuff. The medicated snuff ade with selected Chinese herbal medicine and modern technology was first introuced by the Xichang factory.

anslated by Tang Bowen

Baisui Temple on Mount Jiuhua (by Ling Jun)

More Attractions in Anhui

Anhui Province in the east of China is relatively unknown compared to some of its neighbours, despite being only 400 kilometres from Shanghai. With a population of around 50 million, and covering an area of 139,000 square kilometres, Anhui has much to offer the traveller, especially in its southern parts.

The province, which is mild and slightly humid year-round, is best known for Mount Huangshan, the stunningly dreamy and beautiful set of peaks which is so popular with travellers. Less well known, however, is Mount Jiuhua (Nine Flowers Mountain) to the northwest of Huangshan. The main peak of Jiuhua rises to over 1,300 metres above sea level. The mountain was apparently named by the famous Tang-dynasty poet Li Bai (701-762) who compared the nine major peaks to nine flowers.

The importance of Mount Jiuhua derives not only from its beauty, but from the fact that it is one of China's four sacred Buddhist mountains (the others are Putuo in Zhejiang, Emei in Sichuan and Wutai in Shanxi). Jiuhua has been a place of pilgrimage since the Tang Dynasty (618-907), and has over 60 temples, some of which date back to the seventh and eighth centuries. In the temples are a large number of Buddhist sculptures — over 6,000 in all, and ancient scriptures and examples of ancient calligraphy.

Some of the more important temples include Huacheng Temple, Baisui Temple, Qiyuan Temple and the Minyuan Nunnery. The Jiuhua area is home to many nuns and monks, who lead a self-sufficient life of farming and prayer, and pay little attention to the affairs of the world. The atmosphere is calm and contemplative, soothing and simple. There is an old Chinese saying, that "A day on the mountain is worth a thousand years in the world", and there is no doubt that Mount Jiuhua is a beautiful and spiritually refreshing place. It is easily reached by bus from the cities of Huangshan, Guichi and Wuhu.

Another major feature of southern Anhui is the presence of the Yangtse River. Nearing the end of its long journey to the sea, the river is broad and slow. The region around the lower Yangtse is known as "The Land of Fish and Rice" because of the importance of the river. There are several towns on the river which are worth visiting, and are close to Huangshan.

Anqing, on the north bank of the Yangtse, is nestled in the Dalong Hills, and used to be the capital of the province until it moved to Hefei, further to the north. The city's history stretches back to the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.) of the Zhou Dynasty. The major attraction of Anqing is the Zhenfeng Pagoda. Built in 1570 by the famous architect Zhang Wencai, it occupies the site of the Yingjiang (Welcoming the River) Temple dating from the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127).

The pagoda is seven storeys high, and six of the seven storeys are encircled by stone balconies. Inside, the walls are covered with over 600 images of the Buddha. There are wonderful views of the city to be had from the top of the pagoda.

Travelling further down the Yangtse, the next major city is Wuhu. A small city, with a population of only half-a-million, it is nevertheless an important one, with a long history. In the Spring and Autumn Period it was known as Jiuzi, but its name was changed to Wuhu during the

The Phoenix Pine Trees at Minyuan Nunnery (by Xie Guanghui)

Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D.220). During the Three Kingdoms period (220-280), it became an important strategic city, and there were many battles in the area. The Tang-dynasty poet Du Fu visited the city many times, and collected his impressions in his famous poem *Thoughts on Staying Again at Wuhu.*

Zheshan Hill is the highest point in Wuhu, and gives a good view over the city and the Yangtse River, especially if you climb the pagoda there. There is also a small zoo in Zheshan Park.

There used to be four main temples in Wuhu, but three were destroyed in the Sino-Japanese War, and only Guangji Temple remains, at the foot of Zheshan Hill. It was badly damaged during the "cultural revolution", but has been lovingly restored. The hall is hung with scrolls depicting the Buddhist hell. Emperor Dezhong (r. 780-785) spent some time here as a monk, but omens pointed to the temple as being an unsafe place for him, so he moved south to Mount Jiuhua.

One of the things Wuhu is most famous for is its art of wrought-iron pictures. The Wuhu Arts and Crafts Factory on Wuntun Road produces these pictures, as well as pictures made from feathers and stalks of wheat. The making of iron pictures is very difficult and intricate, and each one takes a long time to produce. The art form is supposed to have been invented by a wandering blacksmith by the name of Tang Tianchi, during the reign of Emperor Kangxi (1662-1722) of the Qing Dynasty. Tang often used to watch a local artist at his work, but one day the artist complained to him that while he painted pictures, all Tang did was beat iron, and he would never be able to make a picture by beating iron. Stung, Tang went away and did just that, "using a hammer as a brush and iron as ink". There is an enormous "Welcoming Pine" iron picture, made in Wuhu, in the Anhui Room of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Further downstream from Wuhu is the city of Ma'anshan. There is a rather charming story told about the city's name, which means "Horse-saddle Hill". General Xiang Yu was defeated in battle by Liu Bei when the kingdoms of Chu and Shu were at war in the third century. Xiang was attempting to escape to Wujiang on the north bank of the Yangtse, but could only find a small fishing boat. He decided to send his beloved horse across first, but as the horse was going, his enemies arrived, and Xiang, realizing he was doomed, cut his own throat with his sword. Following his master's example, the horse jumped into the river and was drowned. The fisherman later found the saddle, and buried it on the mountain nearby, hence the name.

Ma'anshan is Anhui's largest industrial city, producing iron and steel. Despite this, the city has the distinction of having been named as China's model city for environmental protection for the last three years in a row. The streets are broad and shady, and dotted with sculptures. The people of Ma'anshan are also noted for their hospitality.

One of the main features of Ma'anshan is the 72-hectare Yushan Lake in the heart of the city. The lake is surrounded by woodland, crisscrossed by meandering paths, and there is an island in the centre. The lake is ideal for boating and waterskiing and there is a luxury nightclub in the centre.

Ma'anshan's biggest tourist attraction is the Caishiji Park, just outside the city. It is named after a large rock which projects itself high above the Yangtse. Visitors to the park get a wonderful view of both the river and Ma'anshan. The park covers an area of 80 hectares, with ponds and lawns, and even a bamboo farm which collects species of bamboo from all over China.

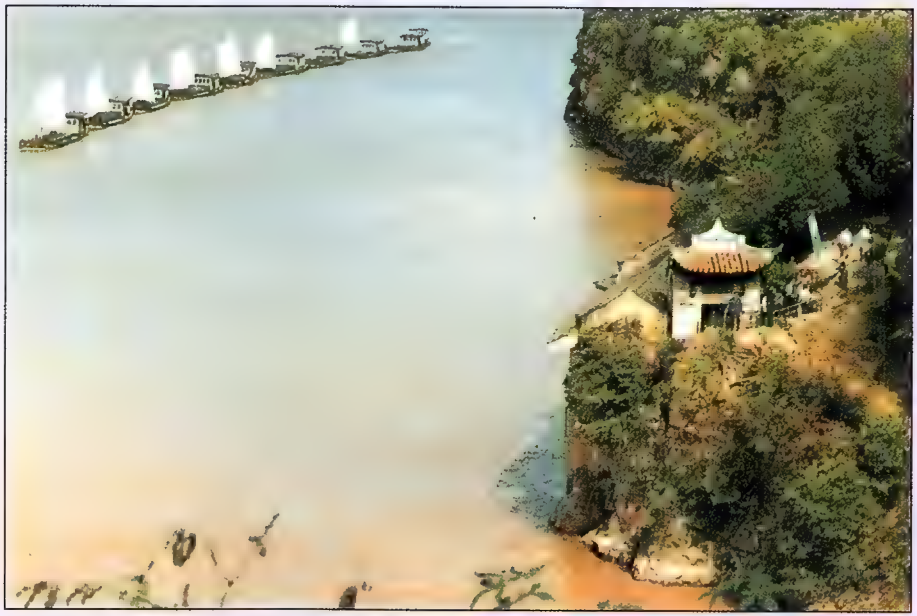
The park was reputedly visited by the poet Li Bai, who travelled most of China. Taibai Tower in the park was erected in his memory. The tower, which was originally built in 810 and was rebuilt in 1877, is a magnificent example of the architecture of the Tang Dynasty, with its overhanging eaves and tall latticed windows. There are works of calligraphy left by the poet on display inside.

Next to the tower is the Taibai Hall, a compound of Tang-style houses. Every autumn a Chinese poetry-reading festival is held here, and draws poets from as far afield as Japan, Singapore and the United States. Another attraction in Caishi Rock Park is the museum devoted to Lin Sanzhi (1898-1989), a well-known calligrapher, painter and poet. His calligraphy is unusually cursive and flowing, and has a unique vivacity to it. The museum is housed in a mountain villa with a thatched roof. In the courtyard are tree fossils which are estimated to be 130 million years old.

On the outskirts of Ma'anshan is a newly-opened museum devoted to Zhu Ran's Tombs and their contents. The tombs were abandoned in the Three Kingdoms period and lay undisturbed until they were rediscovered in 1984. When the tombs were reopened, many significant archaeological finds were made, although there was evidence that the tombs had been looted at some point, and some of the precious metals stolen. Among the finds were the first Chinese name cards, wooden plates with Zhu's name, rank and address on them, which historians believe were given away during introductions, much as business cards are today.

The tombs were also of great interest to scholars because of the lacquerware found in them, which shows surprising similarities to Japanese lacquerware of the same period. This seems to show that Sino-Japanese cultural exchanges can be dated to a much earlier time than was previously thought. The lacquerware pieces are beautifully painted, with a detailed and expressive technique, often depicting important historical events.

Ma'anshan is very convenient to reach, being only one hour from Nanjing by train, and six hours from Shanghai.


Caishiji Park at the foot of Mount Cuiluo in Ma'anshan

Average Climatic Conditions in Anhui and Henan Provinces

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Anhui	Hefei	Temperature (℃)	2.1	4.2	9.2	15.5	20.6	25.0	28.3	28.1	22.9	17.0	10.6	4.6
		Rainfall (mm)	31.8	49.8	75.6	102.0	101.8	117.8	174.1	119.9	86.5	51.6	48.0	29.7
	Huangshan Mountain	Temperature (℃)	-3.1	-1.7	2.7	7.9	11.7	14.9	17.7	17.3	13.7	8.9	3.9	-0.5
		Rainfall (mm)	70.0	121.7	185.1	258.2	328.9	378.8	291.0	299.7	206.0	106.9	84.3	64.3
Henan	Anyang	Temperature (℃)	-1.8	1.0	7.4	14.8	21.0	25.9	26.9	25.4	20.7	14.5	6.8	0.2
		Rainfall (mm)	3.7	9.0	14.5	29.5	37.0	57.8	186.4	147.0	56.7	36.5	21.6	6.5
	Luoyang	Temperature (℃)	0.3	2.7	8.6	15.4	21.3	26.6	27.5	26.2	21.2	15.3	8.3	2.3
		Rainfall (mm)	6.9	12.5	25.4	45.1	47.0	66.3	141.5	95.8	74.7	46.0	30.6	9.3
	Kaifeng	Temperature (℃)	-0.5	1.8	7.5	14.6	20.7	25.9	27.1	25.9	21.0	15.0	7.7	1.4
		Rainfall (mm)	6.4	10.4	24.2	43.6	43.4	81.3	166.6	118.9	64.3	39.4	26.4	9.4
	Zhengzhou	Temperature (℃)	-0.3	2.2	7.8	14.9	21.0	26.2	27.3	25.8	20.9	15.1	7.8	1.7
		Rainfall (mm)	8.6	12.5	26.8	53.7	42.9	68.0	154.4	119.3	71.0	43.8	30.5	9.5

Average Climatic Conditions in Huangshan City

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Tunxi	Temperature (℃)	3.8	5.6	10.3	16.2	20.8	24.5	28.1	27.7	23.3	17.3	11.4	6.0
	Rainfall (mm)	65.4	108.8	155.9	205.1	268.4	303.8	154.6	120.7	110.0	70.9	56.3	50.1
Yixian	Temperature (℃)	3.7	5.3	9.9	15.8	20.7	23.8	27.1	27.0	22.8	17.1	11.0	5.7
	Rainfall (mm)	53.6	105.9	154.3	214.6	251.0	298.8	209.5	134.8	99.9	66.7	49.1	47.8
Shexian	Temperature (℃)	3.8	5.6	10.3	16.3	21.1	24.5	28.0	27.8	23.6	17.7	11.7	6.0
	Rainfall (mm)	54.7	99.2	146.7	199.5	230.1	261.8	147.7	109.6	91.0	60.7	50.8	46.4
Qimen	Temperature (℃)	3.3	5.0	9.9	15.7	20.1	23.9	27.3	26.8	22.7	16.5	10.6	5.4
	Rainfall (mm)	58.6	107.1	166.9	220.3	260.6	297.1	189.4	148.0	90.0	62.7	55.3	45.7

Train Schedules
Beijing – Zhengzhou – Guangzhou

61 Exp.	47 Exp.	37 Exp.	15 Exp.	5 Exp.	1 Exp.	Train No. Station	2 Exp.	6 Exp.	16 Exp.	38 Exp.	48 Exp.	62 Exp.
12:05	19:26	18:14	00:30	23:27	09:01	Beijing	20:22	09:14	04:30	13:21	08:49	21:22
15:32	23:06	21:54	03:57	02:54	12:28	Shijiazhuang	17:02	05:58	01:14	09:48	05:18	18:02
—	02:05	—	—	—	15:27	Anyang	14:02	—	—	07:00	02:18	—
19:55	—	—	—	—	16:56	Xinxiang	12:30	—	—	—	—	13:34
21:10	04:36	03:14	08:56	07:53	18:11	Zhengzhou	11:17	00:53	20:10	04:28	23:48	12:21
01:19	08:33	07:16	12:53	11:50	22:13	Xinyang	07:09	20:53	16:10	00:24	19:48	08:05
04:30	11:44	10:31	—	14:59	01:26	Hankou	03:48	17:35	—	21:03	16:30	04:47
05:05	12:19	10:54	16:21	15:34	02:01	Wuchang	03:09	16:56	12:29	20:23	15:51	04:08
—	15:31		19:33	18:47	05:15	Yueyang	23:58	13:46	09:19		12:41	—
10:14	17:39		21:41	22:56	07:13	Changsha	21:50	11:42	07:15		10:37	23:07
To Kunming	20:46		00:35	23:49		Hengyang		08:46	04:19		07:22	From Kunming
	01:51		05:36	To Nanning		Shaoguan		From Nanning	23:21		02:28	
	04:59		08:45			Guangzhou			20:00		23:06	

Exp. — Express

Train Schedules
Xuzhou – Zhengzhou – Xi'an

139/138 F.T.	159/158 F.T.	167/166 F.T.	Train No. Station	168/165 F.T.	160/157 F.T.	140/137 F.T.
From Shanghai	From Shanghai	From Shanghai		To Shanghai	To Shanghai	To Shanghai
17:08	05:29	01:51	Xuzhou	22:19	05:13	11:18
21:40	09:40	06:24	Kaifeng	17:34	00:55	06:41
22:51	10:52	07:23	Zhengzhou	16:32	23:53	05:39
00:52	13:12		Luoyang		21:22	03:35
02:55			Sanmenxia			01:26
07:40			Xi'an			20:30

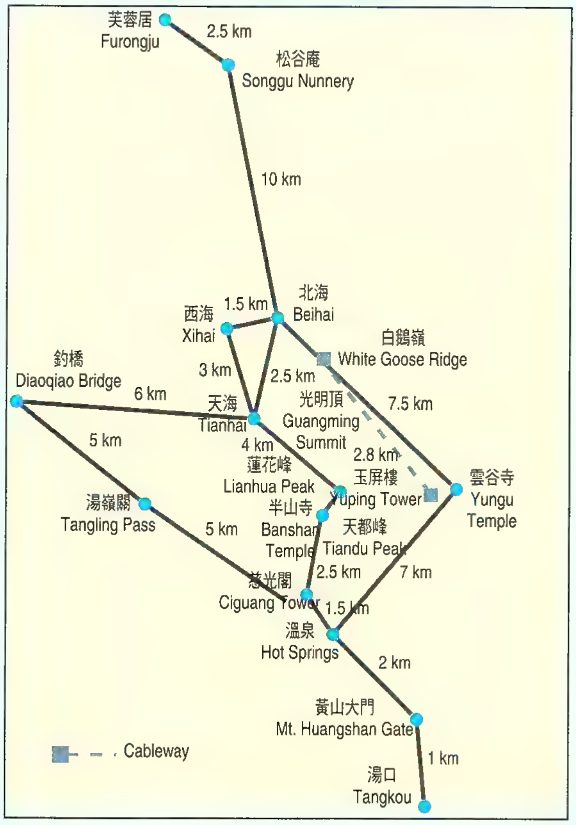
F.T. — Fast through passenger train

Train Schedules
Nanjing West – Huangshan – Yingtan

685 Mixed	491 O.	389 F.T.	358/359 F.T.	321 F.T.	308/309 F.T.	Train No. / Station	310 F.T.	322 F.T.	360/357 F.T.	390 F.T.	492 O.	686 Mixed
			From Shanghai	From Hefei	From Changzhou		To Changzhou	To Hefei	To Shanghai			
	05:30	11:20	—	20:30	—	**Nanjing West**	15:37	18:48	—	08:30	22:58	
	05:47	11:40	23:08	20:51	12:51	**Nanjing**	15:27	18:37	05:29	07:53	22:48	
	07:24	13:11	00:39	22:23	14:38	**Ma'anshan**	12:50	16:27	03:24	04:56	19:55	
	08:43	14:18	01:44	23:35	15:49	**Wuhu**	12:28	15:14	02:15	04:48	19:40	
	10:26	15:27	02:53	01:05	17:06	**Xuanzhou**	11:05	13:45	00:36	03:32	17:40	
	11:43	16:18	03:54	01:55	18:01	**Ningguo**	10:08	12:54	23:45	04:41	16:22	
07:00	14:16	18:03	05:36	03:42	20:12	**Jixixian**	08:25	11:17	22:08	00:57	14:14	21:48
07:48	14:58	18:37	06:09	04:15	20:53	**Shexian**	07:46	10:32	21:23	00:12	13:20	20:57
08:30	15:31	19:08	06:45	04:46	21:10	**Huangshan**	07:15	10:04	20:50	23:45	12:48	20:18
10:29	17:33	21:08	08:23	06:02		**Qimen**		08:27	19:21	22:24	10:57	18:21
13:43	21:30	23:38	11:30	08:40		**Jingdezhen**		06:16	17:10	20:26	07:25	15:04
		03:07	15:00	12:20		**Yingtan**		02:58	13:10	16:40		
		To Nanchang		To Xiamen								

F.T. — Fast through passenger train O. — Ordinary passenger train

Distance to Scenic Spots on Mount Huangshan



Tips for Viewing the Sunrise from Huangshan Mountain

For many people, the highlight of a trip to Huangshan mountain is watching the sunrise from the summit. However, nothing is more frustrating than reaching the top to find the sun already up, or, even worse, to have arrived too early, and to have to wait for a long time in the cold and darkness.

These problems can be avoided by using our graph below, showing the approximate time of sunrise throughout the year at Huangshan Mountain. Bear in mind the following points:

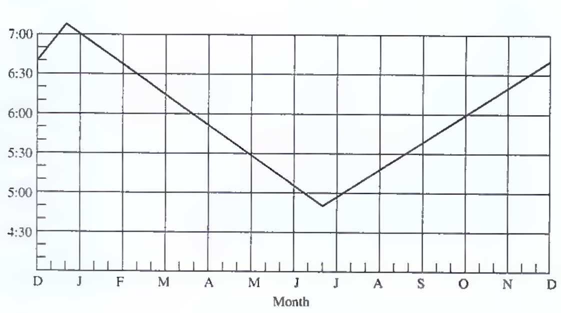
– The sun rises earliest around the Summer Solstice (22 June) when the days are at their longest. Conversely, dawn occurs latest around the Winter Solstice (22 December), the time of the shortest days and longest nights.

– It is best if the sky is not too clear, as the sunlight can otherwise become blinding. Also, a small amount of moisture in the atmosphere makes for a more colourful sunrise.

– Cloud and mist are disastrous for viewing the sunrise, as is rain.

– It is advisable to call the meteorological station before you set out. They can usually provide a short-term forecast for dawn weather conditions.

Sunrise Graph



Major Hotels in Anhui and Guangdong Provinces

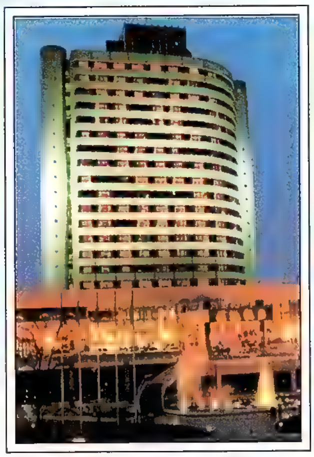
Hefei, Anhui

Anhui Friendship Hotel

安徽友誼賓館
6 Meishan Road, Hefei, Anhui 230022
Tel: 336948, 331707
90 rooms and suites
Located 9 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, bar, coffee shop, ballroom, beauty salon

Anhui Hotel

安徽飯店



2 Meishan Road, Hefei, Anhui 230022
Tel: 331100, 332998   Telex: 90029 ANHTL CN
Fax: (0551) 332581
320 rooms
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, conference hall, karaoke, billiard room, gym, beauty salon, bar

Overseas Chinese Hotel

華僑飯店
68 Changjiang Road, Heifei, Anhui 230001
Tel: (0551) 252221   Telex: 90231 AOCH CN
Fax: (0551) 242861
GM: Sun Yong Ying
Opened April 1954
256 rooms and 42 suites
Located 11 km from airport, 1.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, shopping arcade, coffee shop, bar

Huangshan, Anhui

Dianli Guesthouse

電力賓館
1 Qianyuan Road South, Tunxi District, Huangshan, Anhui 245000
Tel: 0559-214811   Fax: 0559-213546
GM: Zhang Zhenbo
Opened May 1990
112 rooms and 8 suites   Rates: Rmb￥220
Located 5 km from airport, 0.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, ballroom, karaoke, beauty salon, clinic

Huashan Guesthouse

華山賓館
3 Yan'an Road, Tunxi District, Huangshan, Anhui 245000
Tel: 0559-213311   Telex: 5478
Fax: 0559-212378
GM: Zhu Genyi
Opened 1962
132 rooms and 10 suites   Rates: Rmb￥300
Located 5 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, multi-function hall, beauty salon

Huangshan Suodao (Cableway) Hotel

黃山索道賓館
12 Xianrendong Road, Tunxi District, Huangshan, Anhui 245000
Tel: 0559-218147   Fax: 0559-212524
GM: Wang Xucheng
72 rooms   Rates: Rmb￥300
Located 5 km from airport, 0.3 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, karaoke, massage

Jiangnan Hotel

江南大酒店
25 Qianyuan Road North, Tunxi District, Huangshan, Anhui 245000
Tel: 211067
GM: Zhu Yunhai
Opened 8 October 1992
107 rooms and 6 suites   Rates: Rmb￥360
Located 4 km from airport
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, business centre, coffee shop, ballroom, shopping arcade, sauna, massage

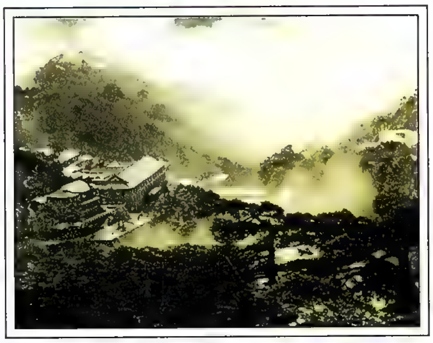
Jiangxinzhou Hotel

江心洲賓館
4 Jiangxinzhou, Tunxi District, Huangshan, Anhui
Tel: 212612   Telex: 90918 AHST CN
GM: Xu Yuansan
Opened September 1987
132 rooms and 3 suites   Rates: Rmb￥280
Located 5 km from airport, 3 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, ballroom, coffee shop, shopping arcade

Huangshan Scenic Area, Anhui

Beihai Hotel

北海賓館



Huangshan Scenic Area, Huangshan, Anhui 242709
Tel: 562555   Fax: 0559-562708
GM: Zheng Zongyin
Opened 1958
180 rooms and 10 suites   Rates: Rmb￥520
Located 79 km from airport and railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, bar, beauty salon, massage, clinic

Taoyuan Guesthouse

桃源賓館
Huangshan Scenic Area, Huangshan, Anhui 242709
Tel: 0559-562666   Fax: 0559-562888
GM: Yuan Daifu
Opened May 1980
150 rooms and 8 suites   Rates: Rmb￥430
Located 79 km from airport and railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, bar, coffee shop, beauty salon, massage, karaoke, billiard room

Xihai Hotel

西海飯店
Huangshan Scenic Area, Huangshan, Anhui 242709
Tel: 562132,562137   Telex: 90911 HSXHH CN
Fax: 0559-562988
GM: Lam Manle
Opened 1989
122 rooms and 5 suites   Rates: US$88 (group), US$115 (+15%)
Located 1,600 metres above sea level, 90 km from airport and railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conferenc room, business centre, bar, shopping arcade, ballroom, beauty salon, clinic

Yungu Hotel

雲谷山莊賓館
Yungu Temple, Huangshan Scenic Area, Huangshan, Anhui 242709
Tel: 0559-562422   Fax: 0559-215409
GM: Zhong Yongbin
Opened 29 May 1987
98 rooms and 2 suites   Rates: Rmb￥430
Located near the cableway in the Huangshan Scenic Area, 79 km from airport and railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, coffee shop, bar, ballroom, gym, massage, beauty salon, shopping arcade

Shexian, Huangshan, Anhui

Xin'an Guesthouse

新安賓館
12 Hongqi Road, Shexian County, Huangshan, Anhui 245000
Tel: 0559-612319
GM: Du Daliao
Opened 1985
42 rooms and 6 suites   Rates: Rmb￥180
Located 18 km from airport, 14 km from railway statio
Facilities: Restaurant, ballroom, coffee shop

Yuping Villa

玉屏山莊
164 Remin Road, Huicheng, Shexian County, Huangshan, Anihui 245000
Tel: 0559-612475
GM: Fang Yougen
Opened May 1989
30 rooms
Located 30 km from airport, 0.5 km from railway stati
Facilities: Restaurant, conference room, coffee shop

Guangzhou, Guangdong

Bai Yun Hotel

白雲賓館
367 Huanshi Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510060
Tel: 3333989 Telex: 44327 BYHTY CN
Fax: 3336498
700 rooms and suites Rates: Single US$308, double US$478-638 (all + 15%)
Located 10 min from airport, 3 km from railway statio
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, busines centre, bar, ballroom, health centre, beauty salon, sauna, massage, shopping arcade

Central Hotel

中央酒店
33 Jichang Road, Sanyuanli, Guangzhou, Guangdon 510015
Tel: 6678331   Telex: 44664 GLCSO CN
Fax: 6662316
GM: S.Y. Leung
Opened 28 September 1986
234 rooms and suites
Located only minutes from airport and railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, busines offices, conference centre, swimming pool, gym, billiard room, karaoke, beauty parlour, shopping arcade

China Hotel

中國大酒店
Liuhua Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510015
Tel: 86-20-6666888   Telex: 44888 CHLGZE CN
Fax: 86-20-6677014
Opened June 1984
1,017 rooms   Rate: Suite US$148 (+ 20%)
Located in city centre, 6 km from airport, 500 metres railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, busines centre, ballroom, function rooms, tennis courts, swimming pool, shopping arcade, bowling centre, billiard room, health club, beauty salon, clinic

ong Fang Hotel

方賓館

0 Liuhua Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510016
l: (86-20) 6669900 Telex: 44439 GZDFH CN
x: 6662775
M: Chen Ru Feng
ened 1961
300 rooms and suites Rates: Double US$110
cated 6 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
xi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥ 10
cilities: Chinese, Japanese, French and American restaurants, business centre, convention centre, recreation centre, amusement park, tennis courts, sauna, swimming pool, bowling, clinic

rama Hotel

華大酒店

6 Changdi Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510120
l: 8863288 Fax: 8863388
M: Ngiam Tong Fatt
0 rooms and suites
cated 25 min from airport, 15 min from railway station
cilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference hall, business centre, bar, karaoke, disco, clinic, beauty salon

rden Hotel

酒店

Huanshi Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 10064
(86-20) 3338989 Telex: 44788 GDHTL CN
: (86-20) 3350467, 3350706
: Lawrence Boey
ened 28 August 1985
12 rooms and 44 suites Rates: US$120-125
ated 9 km from airport, 4.5 km from railway station
i fare to/from airport Rmb ¥ 25; railway station mb ¥ 12
ilities: Restaurants, business centre, shopping rcade, gym, swimming pool, tennis courts, beauty alon, disco, billiard room, clinic, babysitting service

IC Riverside Hotel

灣大酒店

Yanjiang Road Central, Guangzhou, Guangdong 10100
3839888 Telex: 440818 GXRSH CN
3814448
rooms and suites Rates: Double US$80-118, suite S$198-238 (all + 20%)
ated 15 min from airport and railway station
ilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business entre, shopping arcade, karaoke, gym, sauna, assage, tennis courts, swimming pool, beauty salon

den City Hotel

館

iaoqian Road West, Dongshan, Guangzhou, uangdong 510080
7754888 Telex: 441228
7766700, 7751970
Miao Zhiyao
rooms
ities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference entre, business centre, shopping arcade, clinic, gym, llroom, karaoke, billiard room

Guangzhou Hotel

廣州賓館

Haizhu Square, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510115
Tel: 3338168 Telex: 44336 KCHTL CN
Fax: 0086-020-3330791
GM: Wang Zhijian
500 rooms and suites
Facilities: Restaurants with various local cuisines, banquet hall, multifunction conference centre, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, ballroom, karaoke

Guangdong International Hotel

廣東國際大酒店

339 Huanshi East Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510060
Tel: 3311888 Telex: 44556 GPHGZ CN
Fax: 0086-020-3311666, 3311555
GM: Yu Xiu Wei
Opened 8 July 1992
420 rooms and 282 suites Rates: Standard US$115, superior US$130, deluxe suite US$175 (all + 20%)
Located 20 min from airport, 10 min from railway station

Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, banquet hall, conference hall, business centre, ballroom, karaoke, disco, shopping arcade, swimming pool, health club, fitness centre, tennis courts, bowling centre, clinic, beauty salon, facilities for the handicapped, babysitting service

Guangdong Victory Hotel

廣東勝利賓館

54 Shamian Street, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510130
Tel: 8862622 Telex: 441163 GDVH CN
Fax: 0086-020-8862413
GM: Li Xiu Rong
378 rooms
Facilities: Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference hall, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty salon, karaoke, health club, sauna, swimming pool, billiard room, clinic

Holiday Inn City Centre Guangzhou

廣州文化假日酒店

Huanshi Dong, Overseas Chinese Village, 28 Guangming Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510060
Tel: 7766999 Telex: 441045 HICCG CN
Fax: 7753126
Opened March 1991
391 rooms and 40 suites
Located 12 km/20 min from airport, 4 km/10 min from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, business centre, exhibition hall, function rooms, cinema, disco, bar, swimming pool, health club with gym, beauty salon

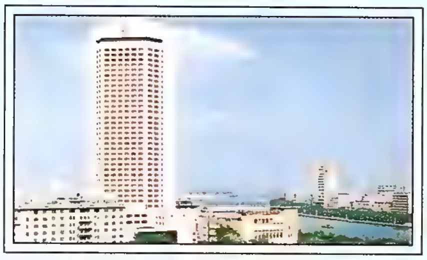
Hotel Equatorial Guangzhou

廣州貴都酒店

931 Renmin Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong
Tel: 6672888 Telex: 441168 EQUAT CN
Fax: 6672582, 6672586
Opened July 1989
310 rooms and suites
Located 15 min from airport, 5 min from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, banquet and conference rooms, business and convention centre, swimming pool, health centre, karaoke, disco, babysitting service, medical service

Hotel Landmark Canton

華廈大酒店



8 Qiaoguang Road, Haizhu Square, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510115
Tel: (86-20) 3355988 Telex: 441288 HLC CN
Fax: (86-20) 3336197
GM: David Ng
Opened 26 February 1991
730 rooms and 51 suites Rates: Single/double US$95
Located 10 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport US$4; railway station US$2
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, food street, banquet hall, business centre, karaoke, bar, beauty salon, indoor swimming pool, gym, clinic

Liuhua Hotel

流花賓館

194 Huanshi Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510017
Tel: 20-6668800 Telex: 44298 GZHH CN
Fax: 20-6667828
GM: Lin Jin Hai
Opened 14 October 1972
715 rooms and 45 suites Rates: US$45
Located 6 km from airport
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥ 15
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, business centre, multi-purpose conference centre, coffee shop, beauty salon, karaoke

Nanhu Hotel

南湖賓館

Tonghe, Shahe, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510515
Tel: 7706706 Telex: 44511 NANHU CN
Fax: 7706160
GM: Liang Hui
Opened April 1981
370 rooms Rates: US$35
Located in the northeastern suburbs, 15 km from airport, 12 km from railway station
Taxi fare to/from airport Rmb ¥ 60; railway station Rmb ¥ 50
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet hall, conference rooms, amusement park, boats, horses, shooting range, villas, swimming pool, dance hall, shopping arcade, business facilities

Ocean Hotel

遠洋賓館

412 Huanshi Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510061
Tel: 7765988 Telex: 44638 GOHOL CN
Fax: 7765475
GM: Ma Rong
200 rooms and suites Rate: Double US$70-74, suite US$115
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, shopping arcade, dance hall, disco, karaoke, gym, sauna, massage, beauty salon

Oriental Silk Hotel

東方絲綢大廈

752, Dongfeng Road East, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510080
Tel: 7762888 Telex: 441181 OSH CN
Fax: 7750796
Opened 18 March 1990
262 rooms
Facilities: Restaurants, business centre, conference hall, function and banquet rooms, coffee shop, silk shopping centre, karaoke, beauty salon, billiard rooms, health centre

Overseas Chinese Hotel (Guangzhou)

廣州華僑酒店

90 Zhanqian Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510010
Tel: 6663488 Telex: 441178 OCHTL CN
Fax: 6663230

Opened 1957
400 rooms and suites
Located 20 min from airport, 0.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Restaurants, conference centre, business centre, bar, coffee shop, shopping arcade, beauty salon, clinic, billiard room, ballroom

Plaza Canton
江南大酒店
348 Jiangnan Road, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510245
Tel: 4418888 Telex: 441032 PLZCT CN
Fax: 0086-020-4429645
448 rooms
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference-banquet hall, business centre, shopping arcade,gym, swimming pool, tennis courts, beauty salon, bar, karaoke, disco

Ramada Pearl Hotel
凱旋華美達大酒店
9 Mingyue First Road, Dongshan, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510600
Tel: 7772988 Fax: 7767481
GM: Tom Liu
400 rooms and suites
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, banquet rooms, conference halls, business centre, shopping arcade, swimming pool, karaoke, disco, tennis courts, billiard room, bowling alley, golf driving range, health and fitness centre, sauna, clinic, babysitting service

White Swan Hotel
白天鵝賓館
1 Southern Street, Shamian Island, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510133
Tel: 8886968 Telex: 44688 WSJ CM
Fax: (86-20) 861188
GM: Yang Xiao Peng
Opened 6 February 1983

744 rooms and 81 suites Rates: US$140
Located 20 km from airport, 10 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, conference rooms, bar, coffee shop, nightclub, karaoke, swimming pools, health centre, tennis and squash courts, golf course, sauna, steambath, jacuzzi and massage room, beauty salon

Conghua, Guangzhou

Overseas Chinese Hotel
華僑大廈
78 Xincheng Road East, Jiekou, Conghua, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510900
Tel: 7926248
GM: Zeng Weimin
100 rooms
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference room, business centre, shopping arcade, swimming pool, karaoke, beauty salon

Hot Spring Hotel
溫泉大酒店
Wenquan, Conghua, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510970
Tel: 7918799 Fax: 0086-020-7918799
GM: Zeng Ziqiang
214 rooms
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, multifunction conference room, business centre, shopping arcade, ballroom, coffee shop, spring water club, swimming pool, beauty salon, karaoke, billiard room

Huadu, Guangzhou

Huadu Hotel
花都賓館

43 Xiuquan Road, Xinhua, Huadu, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510800
Tel: 6832922 Fax: 6833472
GM: Huang Ziwen
76 rooms
Located 22 km from Guangzhou
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, food street, conference hall, bar, ballroom, shopping arcade, beauty salon

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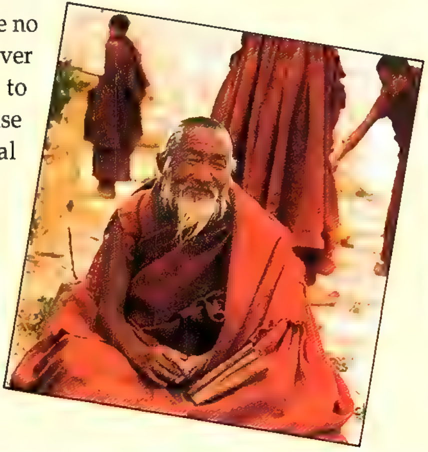
Contributions Welcome!

Do you have an interesting story to tell about your experiences in China? Do you have practical travel tips you would like to pass on to other travellers? Have you taken high-quality photographs which you feel other readers would appreciate?

If so, we would be pleased to receive your contributions for possible publication in a future edition of *China Tourism*. Articles should be no more than 2,000 words and should, whenever possible, have colour prints or slides to accompany the text. For further details please contact the Foreign Languages Editorial Department.



Address:
24/F, Westlands Centre,
20 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay,
Hong Kong
Tel: 561-8001

TRAVELLERS' CORNER

Chinese Medicated Snuff and the "Moon City" Snuff Bottles

PHOTOS BY LENG DENGYI
TEXT BY YUAN SHAOYANG

At the Beijing International Tobacco Fair, held in September 1987, the Xichang Snuff Factory displayed to participants from more than 20 countries and regions Chinese snuff, which included 21 varieties grouped in three categories — medicated, aromatic and popular. The medicated snuff mixed with Chinese herbal medicines by modern technology was the first of its kind in the world. When it was displayed at the international fair, it received high acclaim from Chinese tobacco experts after testing.

The several dozen varieties of snuff were matched by the famous Chinese snuff bottles with pictures painted inside, and the new "Moon City" series of snuff bottles.

In the last hundred years or so, as a result of the modernization of industrial equipment, large-scale mechanization and the introduction of automatic cigarette rolling machines, the habit of taking snuff has become less and less popular. However, despite the fact that most people smoke cigarettes or cigars, there are still people in every country of the world who prefer snuff, the smokeless tobacco product. Statistics compiled in the United States in 1984 showed that more than two million smokers had switched to snuff, hugely increasing the demand for the stuff. As the movement towards limiting and banning cigarette smoking intensifies, more people will probably switch to snuff.

As snuff-taking becomes increasingly popular, so is the popularity of snuff bottles. After years of improvement and perfecting, snuff bottles are finely crafted in a thousand and one colourful varieties. Snuff and snuff bottles have combined to form into an art much sought after by connoisseurs, and the paintings inside are generally acknowledged to be a unique form of Oriental art.

The Xichang Snuff Factory, located in the city of astronautics in the western part of China, is the only one of its kind set up since the opening up to the outside world. In addition to making traditional snuff bottles with jade, stone, pearl, bamboo, wood, porcelain and metal, the Xichang factory has introduced an entirely new "Moon City" series of snuff bottles made of high-altitude azalea wood or yak's horn. After cutting, polishing and adding painted or inlaid designs, the specially processed azalea wood and yak's horn are transformed into exquisite snuff bottles, adding a new variety to the art of snuff bottles.

The "Moon City" series of snuff bottles are works of art that can be carried on the person, placed in a room as an ornament or hung on the wall. Elegant and beautiful, they are executed in the artistic styles of the Yi and Tibetan peoples. The "Moon City" series of snuff bottles are ideal for medicated snuff. Since their introduction, they have been so popular both in China and abroad that there is at present a shortage in supply.

Chinese medicated snuff is said to be 100 per cent effective in preventing colds and clearing the nasal cavity, and helpful in curing rhinitis and nosebleeds. According to Chinese medical theory, it can help "take away the excessive heat in the body and cool the blood". The inhalation of a small amount will immediately refresh you and clear the head.

Snuff is free from tar and carbon monoxide which are harmful to the health. Since one does not have to light up, it can be used in places where smoking is banned, such as an oil wells, mines, forests, grassland, and places where inflammable and combustible materials are stored. There are no cigarette butts, ash or matches to litter the place. Snuff stimulates the nerves faster than cigarettes and can refresh and relieve fatigue in a few seconds. Snuff and snuff bottles together make a splendid gift with both artistic and practical value. An ounce of snuff costs only one or two yuan and can last an ordinary user two or three months.

Translated by Tang Bowen

Xichang Snuff Factory
11 Shangdashuigou
Xichang, Sichuan, China
Tel:22239
Cable: 1032
Postcode: 615000

NEWS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Stone Age Relics

A large number of relics from the late Stone Age have been discovered at a highway construction site in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The relics include dozens of pottery bowls, pots and jars, more than 20 of which are capable of being restored. The pottery is well-fired and solid, and has decorative patterns on the sides and rims. Also discovered were stone knives and axes, millstones and rollers, as well as horse and cattle fossils. Archaeologists say the discovery indicates that the region at the foot of the Yinshan Mountains, around the upper reaches of the Yellow River, were inhabited as long as 5,000 years ago.

Musem of Chariots

A museum of ancient chariots has opened in Zibo, in eastern Shandong Province. The museum is built over a tomb in which wooden chariots were found as funerary objects, dating back to the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.). The tomb includes two pits, one containing 10 chariots and the remains of 32 horses, the other, three chariots and six horses. Although the chariots have deteriorated badly, the copper decorations on them are well-preserved, as are the horses' skeletons. As well as the excavation site, the museum also displays replicas and pictures of chariots, dating from 1,000 B.C. to the early 20th century.

Enormous Buddha

A sleeping Buddha statue has been discovered in Gansu Province that is 4,400 metres long and over 500 metres high. The discovery, on a mountain near Dunhuang, was made by the director of the Dunhuang Museum. Dunhuang is a famous site of Buddhist relics on the Silk Road in the northwest of China. Lying southeast to northwest, the Buddha rests his head quite close to the dam of the Danghekou Resevoir. The contours of his hair, nose, mouth, neck, chest, stomach and legs can be clearly distinguished, and the whole Buddha can be seen from 10 kilometres away. The discovery is expected to add to the knowledge of the Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang.

Ancient Coins

A farmer in Wan'an County in eastern China's Jiangxi Province recently unearthed more than a hundred ancient copper coins. According to archaeologists, the coins were discovered in a cave dating back to the Song Dynasty (960-1279), althought some of the coins dated back to the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220), up to the Song. The coins are apparently among the most well-made ever discovered in China. Coins are very useful to archaeologists, as they can provide a great deal of information about ancient societies.

TOURIST INFORMATION

New Cruise Ship

A new luxury cruise ship named *Splendid China* has started to ply the Yangtse River, from Chongqing to Wuhan. The ship will sail regularly between the two cities, passing through the famous Three Gorges area. Over 90 metres long, it has 84 cabins with a passenger capacity of 168. It also has facilities for business meetings and conferences.

Astronomy Museum

China's first astronomy history museum has opened in Nanjing. The museum is located in the Zijin Mountain Observatory, under the aegis of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. The museum is in three parts, exhibiting ancient astronomical equipment, modern astronomical science and films on astronomy.

Border Cable Car

A cable-car line for tourists is to be built between Heihe City in Heilongjiang Province and Blagoveshchensk in Russia, spanning the Heilongjiang River. Under an agreement signed recently, the two cities and a Hong Kong company will invest US$10 million through a joint venture to build and operate the cable-car line, expected to come into operation in October 1995.

Big World Plaza in Panyu

A US$38 million residential and commercial centre is to be built in Panyu, a suburb of Guangzhou, in Guangdong Province. The New World Plaza is a joint development between companies from Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan, and is the largest real estate project wholly funded by overseas investment in Guangdong, where property and real estate are playing an increasingly important role in the area's economic boom.

The complex will cover an area of 36,000 square metres, and will include luxury apartments, office buildings, a financial centre, shopping mall, hotels, restaurants and entertainment facilities. The project is expected to be complete by the end of 1995. Its location in the middle of the Pearl River Delta means that it is expected to attract overseas as well as domestic business people. It is surrounded by prosperous cities like Guangzhou, and counties such as Nanhai and Shunde, and is close to the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Zhuhai Expressway.

New Yangtse Dock

A new passenger wharf has come into operation in the Yangtse River port of Chongqing, in Sichuan Province. The wharf is 225 metres long and has a passenger handling capacity of 4.9 million people yearly. The dock can berth three 1,000 ton passenger ships.

Relics Exhibition on Tour

A major exhibition of Chinese cultural relics is set to tour Europe next year, after an agreement was signed by the China State Bureau of Relics and the Ruhr German Cultural Foundation. The exhibition which opens in June 1995 in Essen in Germany, will also visit Munich, Zurich and London, before finishing in Copenhagen in 1997.

Terracotta Pit No. 2 Open

Pit No. 2 at the Qin Tombs Museum in Xi'an has opened, and visitors can see the new group of terracotta soldiers. The terracotta soldiers were originally buried with Emperor Qin Shihuang more than 2,000 years ago.

The pit contains more than 1,300 warriors, 80 chariots and a large number of bronze weapons. Only cavalrymen and kneeling archers are in the pit. The new section open to the public is an important addition to the museum, because the warriors and horses found in it are so rich and varied.

Pits No. 1 and No. 3 were opened in 1979 and 1989 respectively, and have attracted more than 10 million visitors from around the world.

NEXT
SSUE

The Silk Road in Xinjiang

In ancient times, camel trains started from Xi'an, capital of the Han Dynasty, and travelled westwards along the Silk Road. When they reached the remote region of Xinjiang, the route split into three, each with its own distinctive scenery.

The Road That Brought Buddhism to China — The Central Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang

The Road on the Endless Grassland — Along the Northern Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang

Ancient Towns in the Desert — The Southern Route of the Silk Road in Xinjiang

The Crystal Waters of Lake Fuxian

The Consecration of a Young Tulku

A MENU FOR YOU

Rice, SEE-MEW rice (Golden Way Brand, Golden Happiness Brand), rice vermicelli (Double Swallow Brand, Golden Sail Brand, Sailing Boat Brand, Chikong Brand, Pearl River Brand), soyabeans, small red beans, green beans, peeled mung beans, kidney beans, peas, oilseeds, oils, groundnut kernels, grouondnut in shell, peeled groundnut kernels, buckwheat, hulled buckwheat, sesame seeds, hulled sesame seeds, tung oil (Three Sails Brand), bean meals, feedstuffs, sesame seed oil, groundnut oil and rice products, groundnut products, sesame seed products, bean products, etc. Also other foods, electric household wares, hardwares, mineral products, medicine, chemical products, building materials, textiles, plastic products, etc.

Guangdong Cereals & Oils Import & Export Corporation

Add: 2 Qiaoguang Road, Guangzhou, China
Cable: CNCOFC GUANGZHOU
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Tel: 3341401 3341470
Fax: 020-3341345

Established in 1977, the Tianjin Zhong-jin Pharmaceutical Factory is a professional manufacturer of synthetic medicines. With an area of 120,000m² and a staff of 1,200, the factory is an independent importer and exporter of pharmaceuticals.

Our factory stresses product management, quailty control and after-sales service. Our products, which meet the international medical community's GMP standard, include Vitamin B1, Piracetam, Thiamphenicol, and Sodium Diclofenate. Our products sell well in dozens of countries and regions throughout the world.

The Tianjin Golden World Pharmaceutical & Chemical Co. Ltd., established jointly by China's Tianjin Zhong-jin Pharmaceutical Factory and U.S.A. Golden World Trade Co., produces more than 100 varieties of herbal medicines and preparations, among which is our Vitamin BT Liyuan series, the No.1 tonic chosen by the Chinese Table Tennis Team.

We welcome people from all over the world to contact us for business negotiation and talks.

中國天津中津製藥廠始建於1977年，是生合成藥的專業家。全廠佔地12萬平方米，擁有員工1200人，是中國醫藥工業的重點企業。享有自營進出口權。

以廠長宋富智爲核心的全面質量控製體系，嚴把倉貯、生產現場、工藝操作、銷售跟蹤等環節的質量關，使企業達到世界醫藥行業通行的GMP標準。以維生素B1、腦復康、甲砜霉素、雙氯滅痛等爲主的名牌優質產品暢銷歐、亞、美幾十個國家和地區，飲譽世界。

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中國天津中津製藥廠與美國金世貿易公司合作創建的天津金世製藥化工有限公司(TIANJIN GOLDEN WORLD PHARMACEUTICAL & CHEMICAL CO. LTD.)出品各類中、西藥製劑百餘種。其中維生素BT力源系列產品已被中國乒乓球隊首選爲營養强化劑。

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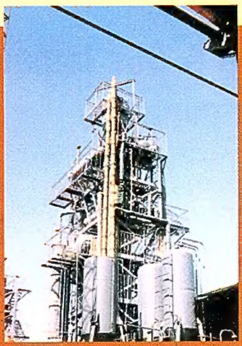

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Postcode郵編: 300381 廠長：宋富智 Song Fu Zhi

CO., LTD. (GROUP) CHINA JIALING INDUSTRY CO., LTD. (GROUP) CHINA JIALING INDU
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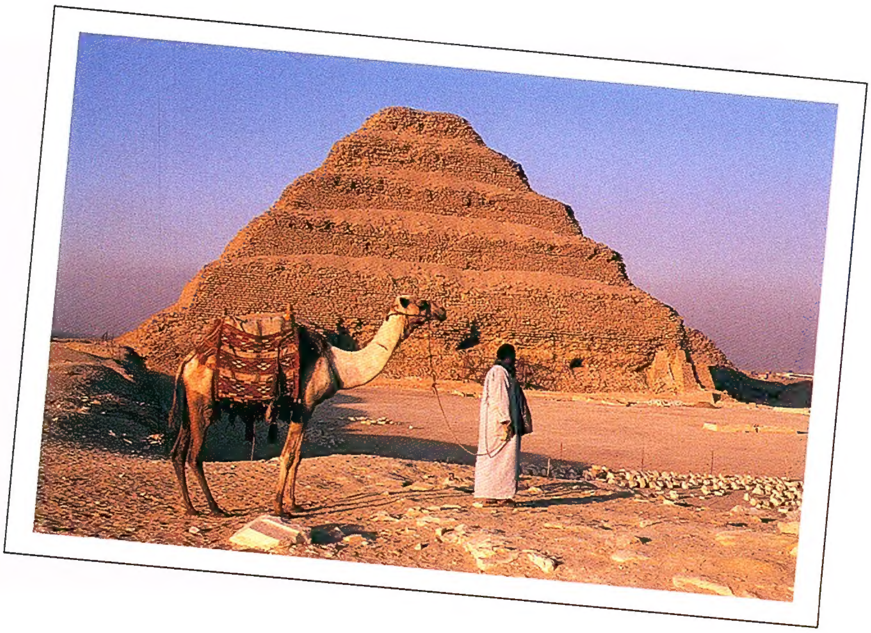

JH145

INTRODUCTION TO CHINA JIALING INDUSTRY CO., LTD. (GROUP)

China Jialing Industry Co., Ltd. (Group) is the biggest motorcycle manufacturer in China and also an export-based enterprise for state mechanical electrical products, and is authorized to do both import and export business.

The main products of this corporation are a series of Jialing Brand Motorcycles such as CJ50-I, CJ50-II, CJ50F, JH50, JH70-I, JH70-II, JH125, JH125L, JH145 and their parts. We also produce Jialing shotgun cartridges, industrial steel balls, bearings and complete sets of equipment. Among these products, Models CJ50 and JH70 motorcycles were each awarded the State's highest silver prize, Model JH125 won the "JUNMA CUP" prize for the State's Newly Developed Products and Jialing's 12-guage shotgun cartridges won the State's silver prize.

Now the corporation has an annual capacity of more than 500,000 series of motorcycles, 600,000 sets of key engine parts with a displacement from 70cm^3 to 125cm^3, and 15,000,000 rounds of plastic case shotgun cartridges. Our economic indexes are ranked first among similar domestic trade. In 1990, the corporation was assessed as a National First Grade Enterprise. In recent years it has maintained its title of one of China's 500 large-scale enterprises and enjoys a good reputation both in domestic and foreign markets.

We welcome all friends from home and abroad to write, telephone or come to visit our corporation to undertake co-operative production, joint ventures, compensation trade and processing and assembling according to materials and samples supplied.

JH125A

JIALING®

China Jialing Industry Co., Ltd. (Group)

Add: Shuangbei, Chongqing, Sichuan, China
Tel: 9861089, 9865847 Tlx: 62173 CSCSJ CN
Fax: 0811-9861089, 0811-9860718

This is another one of the largest tourist centres established by China Travel Service (Holdings) Hong Kong Limited in the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone Overseas Chinese Town. Covering an area of 480,000 sq.m., it adjoins Splendid China Miniature Scenic Spot and China Folk Culture Villages as well. Here we've assembled the marvellous sights and sites of historical interest in the world, the ancient and modern natural landscapes and attractions as well as dwelling houses and celebrated sculptures, etc., totalling 118 scenic spots. Among them are the world-famous Eiffel Tower of France, the Buckingham Palace of Britain, the Pyramid of Egypt, the Grand Canyon of America, the waterside villages in South-East Asia and Europe-style dwelling houses, etc.

Apart from folklore and theatrical performances in the scenic centre, tourists can easily get access to different means of traffic such as the elevated single-track car with a circular route, electromobile, Europe-style ancient carriage, Gypsy caravan, old-fashioned car, monopaddled sampan and pneumatic raft, etc.. And in the comprehensive service area, we cater the delicacies of season, and handicrafts and souvenirs with consummate skills of various countries, which await your choice. What's more, you may even find entertainment on the Carnival Night when teams of artists parade before you by presenting the delightful programmes of multi-national art and culture and customs.

Come and visit "WINDOW OF THE WORLD"

Shenzhen World Miniature Co., Ltd.
Add: Overseas Chinese Town Shenzhen, China.
Tel: 6608000 6603256 Fax: 6602590

CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE (HONG KONG) LIMITED
(General Agent for the Business of "Window of the World" in Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan as well as Overseas) T.A. Licence No.: 350273
Add: CTS House, 78-83 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong.
Tel: 8533888 Fax: 8541383